

THE INFORMANT:
A true story.

Screenplay by
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Based on the book
By
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A SERIES OF GREEN/GOLD VERTICAL STREAKS

Moving across the screen from right to left. We hear a happy and informative man's voice...We will come to know this voice as MARK WHITACRE'S...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

You know that orange juice you have every morning? You know what's in that?

FREEZE on one of the green/gold streaks as it racks into to focus. We have been dollying through...

1

EXTERIOR CORN FIELD

1

Hold on a single stalk of corn in the center of frame.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Corn.

And we are off again, dollying past the green/gold streaks of HARVEST HIGH SEPTEMBER CORN.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

And you know what's in the maple syrup you put on your pancakes? You know what makes it taste so good?

FREEZE AGAIN ON A SINGLE STALK OF CORN

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Corn.

Again, the dolly is on the move-- the corn plants strobe past.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

When you get grass stains on your good pants, you know why the detergent mom uses can get them clean again?

FREEZE ON CORN STALK

WHITACRE (V.O.)

That's right. Corn.

A HUGE COMBINE enters frame and turns down a row. The camera follows it. We are in the middle of a massive corn field in SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. The wind creates swells in the corn like a great green and gold sea. The farm equipment accelerates as does Whitacre...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

There's corn syrup in the capsules
you takes for your allergies, corn
starch in my beer, even corn oil in
the paint we're putting on the
barn...

Corn flies through the air and into the collecting bin.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

...Bacon and eggs is really just
corn and corn when you think about
what they feed the chickens and the
pigs. And when you're good and
help with the trash, you know what
makes the big green bags
biodegradeable?

We reach the end of a row. The combine turns to harvest
another row REVEALING...

A PORSCHE 911 speeding down US HIGHWAY 36...

2 INTERIOR PORSCHE 911- CONTINUOUS

2

WHITACRE, 33, drives his young son ALEXANDER, 6, to school.
Whitacre is as happy as God makes creatures. Alexander sips
his half-pint carton of ORANGE JUICE.

WHITACRE

Do you?

Alexander hazards a guess.

ALEXANDER

Uh-huh. Corn.

WHITACRE

Corn starch. But, Daddy's company
didn't come up with that one--
DuPont did...

Whitacre tussles his hair. They drive by a GAS STATION in the
middle of the cornfields. He continues his ode to corn in
his head...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Ethanol is made of corn; that's
ADM. Car corn. Like gasoline. But
they also use it for scotch, gin
and vodka...Corn and tonic...corn
gimlet...corn on the rocks.

The car accelerates to pass a tanker truck with ADM: SUPERMARKET TO THE WORLD emblazoned on the side. The 911 is warped in the reflection...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Porsche or Porsh-a. I've heard it both ways. Three years in Germany, I should know that. What's the German word for corn? The word I really like saying is "kugelschreiber." That's "pen"-- all those syllables just for "pen."

A PEN SIGNS A LEDGER

Whitacre signs in with the security gate at ARCHER DANIELS MIDLAND headquarters in Decatur. A sprawling industrial facility that makes most of what America eats. Grain elevators, cooling towers, processing plants, loading docks and a six story concrete bunker of an office building. He parks his car in a monogrammed space.

3

INTERIOR ADM HEADQUARTERS-CONTINUOUS

3

Whitacre walks across the open trading floor where soy and corn futures from around the world are displayed on a tote board and into his glass walled office.

He has a kind word for everyone. Smile flashing like a casino sign. He sees his pal Kirk Schmidt from accounting...

WHITACRE

Hey there, howdy. Hey, Kirk, we got to get out and hit some balls...Morning...Guten Tag...

Whitacre scans the room full of busy co-workers. His secretary, LIZ TAYLOR, 35, wears earrings that are EARS OF CORN made of gold.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

What do they pay Kirk...What does a guy like that get...100K...I bet he gets a 100. He's just going to sit behind that desk and ride it into the future...

LIZ TAYLOR

Morning Mark...They have lysine results...

She hands him a folder. He opens it and scans the data. He nods.

4 INTERIOR LYSINE PLANT- A FEW MINUTES LATER

4

Whitacre walks among the giant fermenters-- he's joined by a DISCOURAGED FOREMAN. They check various gauges and dials showing proof of failure.

DISCOURAGED FOREMAN

We adjusted the dextrose again, but the virus keeps showing up...Thought we had it surrounded this time. We're starting a new set of cultures...

WHITACRE

We'll get it. We just gotta stay after it. The things eat sugar and that's what we're giving them-- a warm place filled with sugar.

They walk into a clean room full of flasks mechanically shaken like paint cans-- it's too loud to speak. Each flask is connected to a feed tube-- the cultures are administered to by a HALF DOZEN BIO TECH WORKERS. Whitacre watches. He focuses on one worker-- she's ASIAN. She adds some nutrients to the feed line.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

A positive mental attitude is a real important thing. They've done studies where heart patients who have people praying for them actually do better than ones who don't. There's science for you. The cheerleaders might make a difference in the game after all...How do you know what the electrical energy of a thought actually does when it's out there in the world? It's gotta go somewhere...so you might as well smile. Takes less muscles than frowning...

Whitacre closes the door on the very loud room.

5 INTERIOR ADM BOARDROOM- LATER

5

Whitacre sits with MICK ANDREAS, Vice Chairman, 45, and TERRY WILSON, 55, President. An overhead projector displays the desultory performance of Whitacre's division.

ANDREAS

The fucking thing is supposed to produce 113 thousand tons annually.

(MORE)

ANDREAS (cont'd)
We're not gonna get anywhere near that. We got 150 million dollars in costs over there guys. I can see the fucking thing from my swimming pool and it makes me want to drown myself every morning.

WILSON
Did the Japanese have these kind of problems with lysine?

ANDREAS
(to Whitacre)
I don't give a shit about the Japanese. You just gotta get the Goddamn lysine bugs to eat the dextrose and shit us out some money.

WHITACRE
We're still having problems with this virus.

ANDREAS
I don't want to hear about the damn virus anymore. Terry, what are we losing a month?

WILSON
We're off like seven million per.

ANDREAS
That's not gonna fly much longer. You want to go in there next quarter and tell the board that we're sucking hind tit on this...cuz' I sure don't.

He gives Whitacre a cold, hard, we're-done-fucking-around-glare.

ANDREAS
Fix the Goddamn plant, or we're gonna shut it down.

The last light goes out.

AN EAR OF CORN ON A DINNER PLATE

A pad of butter melts.

6 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION KITCHEN- EVENING

6

Whitacre stares at the EAR. His wife GINGER, 33, and Alexander dine with him.

Ginger and Mark have known each other since High School. She was Homecoming Queen then. Either would be hard pressed to envision a life without each other.

GINGER

You're not hungry, Corky.

Whitacre is distracted. Ginger cuts up Alexander's food.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

The pilgrims loved the corn-- they came for the religious freedom but they stayed for the corn-- but its missing three of your eight essential amino acids-- especially lysine. That's why the Indians ate it with beans or lime. You feed a chicken corn and it gets sick. Yo feed it corn and lysine and it goes from egg to supermarket fryer in six months instead of eight...

Whitacre gazes over at a plate of fried chicken, and then at his wife. She has gotten dressed up for dinner. She looks pretty.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Breasts and thighs in six months...

WHITACRE

You look great.

GINGER

They got the first wall of the stables up today. You see that?

WHITACRE

They're doing this thing in hydroponics where they're feeding lysine to jumbo shrimp...Imagine you're a shrimp and one day some corn goes floating by, what do you think about that?

Alexander smiles.

GINGER

I don't know what I'd think about that.

WHITACRE

There's an opening in Mexico-- they might need me to go down there and get things set up...Alex, what do you think about Mexico?

ALEXANDER

I thought we were getting horses.

7 INTERIOR ADM- WEEKS LATER- EVENING

7

Whitacre is working late-- pouring over the failing lysine numbers.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I would rather take a lot of pain killers in a hotel room than jump off a bridge...Or use a gun. A gun on your temple-- why do that? What does that say? Pain killers, definitely...Lie down in a great big hotel bed...What's that place in Hong Kong on the Kowloon side? The Regent? What a bed! If you think about it, that doesn't mean anything-- it's normal to think thoughts...

His secretary, LIZ TAYLOR, buzzes him on the intercom.

WHITACRE

Yeah?

LIZ TAYLOR

(on the intercom)

There's a call, I can't pronounce his name, he said he works for Ajinomoto Corporation.

Whitacre picks up.

WHITACRE

Mark Whitacre.

FUJIWARA (O.S.)

Hello, Dr. Whitacre? My name is Fujiwara from Ajinomoto Corp...I want to discuss with you lysine if you have a moment.

Liz pokes her head into the office and mouths the words "Good Night" to her boss and leaves him alone with Fujiwara.

WHITACRE

Hey, sure...How you guys making out over there?

8 EXTERIOR GAS STATION OUTSIDE OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS- NIGHT 8

Whitacre on his way home from work, this time in a JEEP CHEROKEE, fills up the tank. A SERVICE STATION EMPLOYEE is changing the price of gasoline. ANOTHER CUSTOMER gives a SUCKER to her TEETHING BRAT to pacify her.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Sixth grade. Marty Blocker used to sell us Charm's Blow Pops for three cents, which was a great deal cuz at Valley Drug they cost a nickel. He said his Dad worked for Charms-- said he invented the Blow Pop and got a special deal-- like a life time supply. Then they opened his locker..cuz of all the ants...In a line...His Dad worked for the post office, he came down to the school in his uniform. Nothing ever happened to Marty-- just ants...He blew off part of his thumb on the 4th of July with an M-80...

9 INTERIOR MICK ANDREAS' OFFICE ADM- MORNING 9

At 6:30 the next morning Whitacre walks across the ADM trading floor and straight into Mick Andreas' office looking flustered.

WHITACRE

Mick you're not going to believe what the hell's happened. I think I know the reason why we've been having all these problems at the plant.

ANDREAS

Well, I've only been asking you to come up with one for the past eight weeks. I'm all ears.

Whitacre paces. His story comes out in a rush of words. Andreas listens silently.

WHITACRE

It's not start-up problems like we thought. It's the Japanese. This guy Fujiwara from Ajinomoto, he's been calling me-- sometimes at work, sometimes at home cuz of the time difference-- you met him, he was here a couple of weeks ago.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (cont'd)

Well last night he calls me at home just after 8, and Mick, he knew everything. He says to me, 'You remember the total nightmare you had during May, June and July?' And before I can ask him what he means he says, 'Those months when ADM was losing about seven million dollars a month in the lysine business?'

Whitacre stares at Andreas in shock-- no one outside the company should know that. Andreas is still stone faced.

WHITACRE

I couldn't believe it. But, Mick before I can even ask him how he got those numbers, he starts making little comments about us having microbe problems. Jokes, like he's toying with me.

Whitacre is fuming now-- his voice unnaturally high.

WHITACRE

And then he tells me that one of our highest paid employees is actually an employee of Ajinomoto and is sabotaging the plant. They're injecting some kind of virus into the dextrose and contaminating the whole deal. That's the problem. I'll tell you Mick, it's like Rising Sun, that Crichton book, it's just like it. Fujiwara even said that his boss, Ikeda, would have him killed if he knew he was calling. So I asked him why he was talking to me and he said-- he said-- he wants 10 million dollars. 10 million and he'll tell us who the saboteur is and give us a new lysine bug that's immune to the virus. We could be up and running in three days...

Andreas pauses, takes it all in, and then...

ANDREAS

How well do you know this guy?

WHITACRE

Uh, um, well I met him a few weeks ago when he came over. And then, he called a couple of times...

ANDREAS

So, not very well?

WHITACRE

Very well? No, I can't really say that.

Andreas ponders the situation.

ANDREAS

Okay, if you hear from him again-- talk him down on the price. I want you to find out the least amount of money he'd settle for. If we can get a bug that's resistant to the virus, it might be worth it...But, I want you to keep this quiet, if there is a mole, we don't want him to know we're onto him.

10 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- EVENING

10

Whitacre stands with a cocktail in the fading light, looking at the foundation for the NEW HORSE STABLES being built across the road from the main house. There is not another home anywhere nearby.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

This'd be a great place for some outlet stores...People would come from all over Southern Illinois and probably Missouri, too. Famous name brand labels and appliances at savings of up to fifty per cent every day. Maybe a food court with a Mexican place...After the stables, maybe a tennis court or a little pitch and putt by the pool-- that adds to resale value like nobody's business...

Whitacre looks at the swarm of insects around a street light...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

The birds eat the bugs, the cars eat the birds, the rust eats the cars and the new construction eats the rust...

Ginger interrupts Whitacre's grand plan from across the street...

GINGER

Corky, Alexander says there's a bat in his room.

11 INTERIOR ADM- MICK ANDREAS' OFFICE

11

Whitacre shakes his head in disbelief. He paces nervously. Stunned by the news.

WHITACRE
The FBI! God, no.

Andreas and MARK CHEVIRON, 38, tell Whitacre of his upcoming FBI interview. Cheviron is a barrel chested, linebacker of a man. A former Decatur cop who is now Private Industry's version of a bouncer.

WHITACRE
I thought I was supposed to be getting him down on the price. That's what you told me to do and I was doing it.

ANDREAS
We're not gonna sit back and let the Japs fuck us sideways.

WHITACRE
(off Cheviron)
I just don't understand, we weren't going to mention it and now he's in on it?

ANDREAS
Of course he's in. If we got a mole then it's a security issue...

CHEVIRON
I'll be sitting in with the FBI.

WHITACRE
But, I already told you guys everything I know. What's the point?

Cheviron is annoyed by Whitacre's histrionics.

CHEVIRON
We don't like the idea of talking to the FBI anymore than you do. Look, they're just going to tape the guy's calls-- and ask you a few questions. No big deal.

Whitacre shakes his head, even more upset.

WHITACRE
Questions, Jesus.

ANDREAS
We know how the FBI works...We can
control this.

Whitacre has his doubts.

12 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- DAY 12

GINGER is putting away groceries when the phone rings.

GINGER
(answering phone)
Hello, Whitacres.

13 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S OFFICE 13

Whitacre is on the phone-- pacing like a caged animal.

WHITACRE
Now, they've got the FBI in on it.
First they tell me they're going to
pay and be done with it, now they
want me to talk to the FBI.

14 INTERIOR KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS 14

She sits down-- uneasy. This isn't like him to be so upset.

GINGER
The FBI? Why do you need to talk to
the FBI? It's their factory. Let
them talk to the FBI.

WHITACRE (O.S.)
I'm really uncomfortable about
this, baby. There are a lot of
things going on here.

GINGER
What does that mean, "things?"

WHITACRE
I just mean we have to be careful.

GINGER
Whatever you do, Corky, no matter
what's going on, just be honest
with them and tell the truth. Tell
the truth no matter what the truth
is.

He considers her advice and hangs up the phone. Whitacre looks out the window at the cold, gray Autumn day and weighs his options. Leaves blow across the ADM parking lot.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

(he seems angry)

It's spring time in Nigeria-- you can bet they're loving that. Sitting around watching the days get longer; watching the afternoon go by on their Rolexes and Cartiers. Everyone's just waiting on the mailman...while the poachers make the elephants extinct.

ANGLE ON FBI FORM 302

The name "Mark Whitacre" is written across the top.

15

INTERIOR ADM CONFERENCE ROOM- EVENING

15

SPECIAL AGENT BRIAN SHEPARD, 43, sits with Cheviron and a very anxious Mark Whitacre. Shepard wears a rumpled dark suit and tie from the day Jay Edgar Hoover set a dress code. He has been stationed in Decatur where the odd dead body in a river and a convenience store robbery that traversed state lines have made up the last fifteen years of his life. Whitacre shifts restlessly in his seat. Cheviron on the other hand is an old hand at this. He watches Whitacre and says nothing. Shepard writes down everything.

WHITACRE

He told me he wanted his payments deposited by wire transfer to numbered bank accounts in Switzerland and the Caribbean.

SHEPARD

And when was your last contact with him?

WHITACRE

Two days ago. But I think he's getting suspicious. I've dragged this out as long as I can. If we don't get back to him soon he may back out?

SHEPARD

And these calls, they've been coming in on your home line?

Whitacre looks at Cheviron-- there's clearly a right and wrong answer here.

WHITACRE

I have an ADM line at my house-- a business line-- they've been coming in on that.

WHITACRE'S POV

Drifting from Shepard's face to his ADAM'S APPLE. The knot of his BLACK FBI TIE bobs up and down as he speaks.

SHEPARD

(under)

Well, we need to start by putting a recording device on your phone. We should make arrangements to do that as soon as possible. We also need a list of everyone in the bioproducts division to see if we can see who's operating on the inside, we'll want phone records, employment histories and any other background checks that ADM may have...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

(over)

There's a sale at Bacarach's-- they get those Oscar De La Renta ties that nobody buys-- except maybe Wilson-- what are they two for one for another week...They never put the Brioni ties on sale...I should just get all the ties in Paris, wear them once or twice. Shove them in a duty free bag.

CHEVIRON

I can help with that.

WHITACRE

So, that's it then. I can go?

Shepard hands Whitacre his card. They shake hands.

SHEPARD

I'd like to come out tomorrow and get on that phone.

WHITACRE

No problem. Thanks for your time.

16

INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION ENTRY WAY- NIGHT

16

Whitacre comes in from a long day at work. Ginger walks in from the kitchen. She gives him a welcome home hug-- but he doesn't let go-- holding on like a man caught in the current.

GINGER

You told them the truth, Mark.
That's all you can do.

WHITACRE

They we're watching me the whole time. Cheviron was in the room.

She slips from his arms-- disappointed.

WHITACRE

I never even got a chance.

She doesn't accept his excuse and heads upstairs to bed.

GINGER

Tanya called from school-- she has homework questions for you.

Whitacre stands in the vestibule alone. He walks through the big house shutting off lights-- he sits in a chair in the huge living room and leafs through an issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I go to Cornell and get a Ph. D. and then to Northwestern and get an MBA-- Mick Andreas gets born with the vice president of the United States as his Godfather. He goes to the Nixon's for Thanksgiving-- my parents died in a car accident when I was three. I wound up in an orphanage. That was my Thanksgiving...These photographers must wait forever to get these shots...Although I heard a story that sometimes they'll throw a sandwich on the ground to get the panther to come down out of the tree...They're just trying to do their jobs...Where's the harm-- the panther gets to eat.

17 INTERIOR CHEVIRON HOUSE- NIGHT

17

Cheviron sits in bed with his wife watching TV. The phone rings

CHEVIRON

Jesus, it's late...Hello?

18 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION LIVING ROOM- SIMULTANEOUSLY

18

Whitacre paces while on the phone-- frantic and rambling.

WHITACRE
Now my family's being threatened, I
can't put up with this.

CHEVIRON (O.S.)
What?

WHITACRE
They're threatening my daughter.
She got a call at school. She's
fourteen!

CHEVIRON (O.S.)
Slow down, Mark.

WHITACRE
She said the guy sounded Asian.
They told her Fujiwara couldn't
wait.

CHEVIRON (O.S.)
Did you call the FBI?

WHITACRE
It just happened. He wants an
answer. Or, he said *she's* in
trouble.

CHEVIRON (O.S.)
We'll talk about it in the morning.

WHITACRE
I'm thinking about quitting. Moving
my family out of here. I can't do
this.

CHEVIRON (O.S.)
We'll talk in the morning.

Whitacre puts down the phone and walks through the large,
dark house. He opens the bedroom door and the wedge of light
finds Ginger already half-asleep. He lies down next to her
in bed fully clothed.

19 INTERIOR ADM- MICK ANDREAS' OFFICE

19

Cheviron, Whitacre and Mick Andreas. Whitacre is still
agitated.

ANDREAS
You ever mention to Fujiwara where
your daughter went to school?

CHEVIRON

If the guy wants to threaten you--
why not just call you?

WHITACRE

He told her to write down the
message.

ANDREAS

I want her to tell the FBI what
they said.

Andreas moves toward the phone.

WHITACRE

I don't want her talking to the
FBI, definitely not.

CHEVIRON

Why not, Mark? Come on, if she's
really in danger.

ANDREAS

Then I'll talk to her.

Andreas picks up the phone. Whitacre doesn't want that
either.

WHITACRE

She's scared enough.

ANDREAS

If someone's threatening her...

A beat. Whitacre collapses-- there's more to this.

WHITACRE

Don't call her...No one's
threatening. I, uh...

A long painful beat.

WHITACRE

I made it up. I lied. There wasn't
any threat.

Cheviron shakes his head in disgust.

CHEVIRON

Christ, what a waste of time.

Andreas lowers his gaze at Whitacre-- he wants an
explanation.

WHITACRE

I'm no good at this. The FBI guy
really got to me last night.

He's twisting in the wind.

WHITACRE

I figured if you guys thought my
daughter was in danger you'd just
pay Fujiwara and all this FBI stuff
would go away. It was a stupid
move on my part.

Whitacre's ashamed. .

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. Stupid, stupid move.

He gets up and leaves in humiliation. He wanders through the
lobby of ADM in a daze.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

What am I supposed to do? I didn't
get the FBI involved-- I was told
we were paying the money. It's
like, 'Whitacre go out for a long
pass,' and then we run the ball.
Look, I admitted I made a mistake,
that's more than I can say for most
people. Hey, when they found out
that Mick's Dad, Dwayne, wrote a
check to the Watergate Burglars--
did he admit it? Besides these guys
probably own the FBI with the money
they have. They probably wanted me
to move into Dwayne's old house--
because they've got it wired like
in a Crichton novel...

He wanders into his office.

LIZ TAYLOR

Sid Hulse wants to know if you can
have dinner at seven instead of
seven-thirty and Marty Allison
called...

ANGLE ON A SHRIMP COCKTAIL

Jump shrimp on shaved ice.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
We're into shrimp now, fish, too.
Tilapia, it's like Orange Roughie
but lighter...they're growing out
there next to the corn...

20 INTERIOR COUNTRY CLUB OF DECATUR- NIGHT

20

Whitacre and a very done-up Ginger dine with SID HULSE, 35, the used car version of a lysine salesman at the Club. Mauve draped tables, botanical drawings of the state flower on the wall. Bow-tied wait staff patrol the diners with pitchers of ice water. Sid and Ginger chit-chat-- Mark is distracted.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Someone told me they bugged the
dining room-- the John, too. Might
be paying off the waitresses here
at the club. That's how business
get done. Clients go to relieve
themselves. ADM knows...

GINGER
(off her earrings)
Mark got them abroad.

SID HULSE
Nigeria?

Whitacre shoots him a look.

WHITACRE
Not funny, Sid.

SID HULSE
You're telling me.

Sid laughs. Ginger doesn't get the joke.

GINGER
Mark's never been to Nigeria.

ANGLE ON WHITACRE'S HAND UNDER THE TALE

He covertly slides a business card into Ginger's hand.

WHITACRE (O.S.)
So, where are you off to tomorrow?

GINGER'S POV OF THE CARD

On the back is scribbled, "The FBI is coming at 10 PM."

SID HULSE

West coast swing-- I gotta get out there and kick some Japanese butt.

WHITACRE

So, I'll see you in a couple of weeks.

She's still digesting what's on the card-- trying to act natural.

GINGER

Then you guys can maybe have a chance to play some golf.

Whitacre throws an arm around her.

21 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S LINCOLN TOWN CAR- LATER

21

Ginger and Mark drive home in silence.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

There should be a TV show about a guy who calls home one day-- and he's there. He answers-- he's talking to himself only it's someone else. He's somehow divided into two and the second one of him drives away and the rest of the show is about him trying to find the guy...

GINGER

Should I get Alexander out of the house?

WHITACRE

It's not like that-- it'll be OK.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

What do they do in school to the kids who can't keep a secret-- no BMW for those boys.

22 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION LIVING ROOM- LATER

22

Ginger and Whitacre. Whitacre tries to plead his position to his wife-- it's not as black and white as she assumes.

GINGER

Just tell them everything. We'll leave. I don't like what this company is doing to you.

(MORE)

GINGER (cont'd)

This is a chance to go somewhere else. You said Mexico...

WHITACRE

I may tell them at some point, but not now. Right now I'm going to follow the company line.

GINGER

Mark, ADM is not more powerful than the FBI. You can't tell me that.

WHITACRE

It's more complicated than that.

Her face is a mask of determination.

GINGER

Mark, if you don't tell them I will.

Behind him the drapes are illuminated by headlights in the drive. He is desperate-- he softly repeats.

WHITACRE

I can't, not now.

The door bell rings. She opens the door.

WHITACRE

Good evening, Agent Shepard, this is my wife Ginger.

Whitacre knows he has to keep the two of them apart.

SHEPARD

I know it's late. I'll be out of your hair in a minute, just show me where the, uh...The line in question...

WHITACRE

Right, the office line is upstairs.

Shepard and Whitacre head upstairs leaving Ginger behind.

SHEPARD

Any calls since yesterday...

ANGLE ON GINGER

She stays on the ground floor and strains to hear if her husband is opening up.

WHITACRE (O.S.)
It's tomorrow there. When it's ten
at night here, it's three in the
afternoon in Tokyo...

23 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S STUDY- CONTINUOUS

23

Shepard has completed his work. A small TAPE RECORDER sits
on the desk next to a fax machine. Whitacre wants him gone.

SHEPARD
Simple device here, just make
sure you hit the record
button and the play button
when he calls and you'll see
a red light come on-- don't
hit rewind or you'll record
over it.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Go ahead open up to your
wife, see what it gets you.
Spend the rest of your life
explaining why your career
went out the window, followed
by your wife after the golf
pro. And your kids after some
angle dust and the police are
right back here.

WHITACRE
Hit the record button, right.

24 EXTERIOR WHITACRE PORCH- NIGHT

24

Whitacre walks Shepard to the door where Ginger is waiting.

SHEPARD
I'll give you a call tomorrow and
we can test it out.

WHITACRE
Great. Hey, thanks for coming by,
Brian. Have a good night.

SHEPARD
Good night. Good night, Mrs.
Whitacre.

Shepard walks toward his car. Ginger and Mark linger.

GINGER
(to her husband)
Are you going to say something or
am I?

Ginger pushes past him.

GINGER
Brian?

Shepard stops. Whitacre has no choice-- he finishes her sentence.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

You gotta minute.

Whitacre walks past his wife toward the car. Ginger squeezes his hand as he passes her on the steps.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Most of what we do is to impress girls-- I bet there are guys-- like circus guys who fall off the tight rope and on the way down all they think about are girls until they hit the ground-- not even about growing wings real fast-- just girls going by...They were going to find out anyway cuz' of Mick...Who knows what Mick and Dwayne have been telling them about me already.

25 INTERIOR SHEPARD'S CAR- NIGHT

25

The two men speak in the dome light of Shepard's Dodge Dynasty.

SHEPARD

You want to go back inside?

WHITACRE

I think they might have it bugged.
We're safer out here.

Shepard is confused.

SHEPARD

Bugged? What?

Whitacre takes a moment-- but decides to go on.

WHITACRE

This used to be Dwayne Andreas' house, you know that?

SHEPARD

I'm aware of that.

WHITACRE

There are things I know, but if I decide to tell you what's going on, could I be prosecuted for it?

SHEPARD

I can't provide you with immunity,
but any information you tell me
about your involvement in criminal
activity would be discussed with
the US attorney's office in a
favorable light.

Whitacre stares forward-- a beat. Shepard gets out his
notebook.

WHITACRE

Everything I told you yesterday
about Fujiwara was true-- except
one thing. I never received a call
from him on the office line.

Shepard looks at Whitacre-- he's confused.

SHEPARD

Why did you tell me that you did?

WHITACRE

Before I spoke with you, Mick
Andreas and Mark Cheviron coached
me on what to say. They told me to
tell you that the calls came in on
my business line, instead of my
home line.

SHEPARD

Why?

Whitacre pauses again. It's too late to turn back.

WHITACRE

What I'm about to tell you involves
something very large. This
extortion attempt by Fujiwara is
nothing compared to it.

Shepard says nothing.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

It involves price fixing in the
lysine business. I've been in
several meetings with our Japanese
and Korean competitors in the past
few months where the sole purpose
has been to fix prices. ADM made me
go to these meetings.

Shepard writes furiously, struggling to see in the dark.

WHITACRE

That's why they wanted me to lie.
Fujiwara's calling on my home line.
But, so are the people we fix
prices with. They didn't want you
to hear those conversations so they
told me to say the Fujiwara calls
came in on the ADM line. But, I
knew if you guys ever started
looking at the records you'd see
all these calls I have to Japan.
And that's what scared me. Nobody
has more calls than me. If you ever
figured out about the price fixing,
I'd be the fall guy.

Shepard considers the explanation.

SHEPARD

Who told you to participate in
these price fixing talks?

Whitacre pauses, summons his conviction.

WHITACRE

I'm operating under the direction
of Mick and Dwayne Andreas.

26

INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- ALEXANDER'S ROOM

26

Ginger checks on her son.

ALEXANDER

Who's Dad talking to?

GINGER

A friend who needs his help.

She walks down the hall pausing by a window. She can see the
two men talking in the car. She turns off the light and gets
into bed-- staring at the ceiling.

27

INTERIOR SHEPARD'S CAR- LATER

27

Shepard writes down everything.

WHITACRE

Mick and Cheviron had me call
Fujiwara today and tell him to stop
calling until things cool off.

SHEPARD

They told you to tell him to stop
calling?

WHITACRE

They're afraid of what you guys might find out. Can you give me a tape recorder? I can prove this if you give me a tape recorder. I'll take a polygraph if that helps.

Shepard is out of pages in his notebook.

SHEPARD

I want to thank you for being honest with me tonight.

WHITACRE

You're not going to ask questions at ADM about all this? It'd be my job for sure.

SHEPARD

No, what was said here was confidential. I'm going to speak to my superiors Mark, and then we'll be in touch.

Whitacre goes back inside his dark house and heads upstairs-- he seems unburdened.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

He seems like a real good guy...I mean just a straight shooter. I think we really got along-- I bet he wouldn't mind if I called him "Brian" instead of "Agent Shepard." "Bri." "Hey, Bri..." This must be very different for him. Talking to a guy like me instead of a bank robber or a drug dealer...

ANGLE ON SHEPARD

Struggling to read his notes in the car.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I could see us fishing or whatever. What a good listener-- you don't meet one of those everyday.

Shepard takes out his cell phone. We hear ringing on the other end. A sleepy voice answers.

PAISLEY (O.S.)

Yeah, hello. Paisley.

SHEPARD

It's Brian. I just got done talking to Whitacre, there's something much bigger going on here.

28 INTERIOR ADM- THE NEXT MORNING

28

Whitacre tries to look natural as he walks to his office, his first day as a whistle blower. No sooner does he take his seat, than Cheviron appears baring down on him though his glass walled office.

Cheviron enters.

CHEVIRON

What happened last night?

WHITACRE

They put a recorder on my line.

CHEVIRON

And that's it?

WHITACRE

Yeah, and I was instructed that when Fujiwara calls, I'm to record the conversation.

Whitacre gets buzzed by his secretary.

LIZ TAYLOR

Your wife on two.

CHEVIRON

Well, make sure you do it because they have ways of checking to see if you're going to or not.

Whitacre picks up the call and the big bully goes away. We hear Ginger very excited on the other end of the phone...

WHITACRE

OK...OK...slow down...tell me what happened...

Whitacre listens, leafs through his mail.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Does anyone win that Publisher's Clearing House thing? Someone must, right? Otherwise it's against the law...Someone gets a million dollars or someone goes to jail...

29 INTERIOR FBI SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS- MORNING

29

A small conference room with bad green wall paper and a view of the Illinois Capital Building. Shepard briefs AGENT DEAN PAISLEY and AGENT IN CHARGE KATE MEDFORD. He searches through his large pile of notes for the most shocking of last night's revelations. Medford eats her morning yogurt.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

60 minutes or someone would come after Ed MacMahon. You can't use the US mail that way...And a guy like Ed MacMahon would never get involved...

SHEPARD

....a pound of bacon, a peanut butter sandwich, some vitamins-- anything that ADM has a hand in-- it's all fixed, that's what he's telling me. Basically, everyone in this country is the victim of corporate crime by the time they finish breakfast...

Medford studies the ingredients of her yogurt.

PAISLEY

So, what do we have? Anti-trust violations, providing false information...

30 INTERIOR ADM WHITACRE'S OFFICE- CONTINUOUS

30

Whitacre is still on the phone-- pacing-- the person at the other end of the line is doing most of the talking.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Who can you trust? Your government? Your employer? Your wife? You trust your wife...OK, but what's the divorce rate?

31 INTERIOR FBI SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS- CONTINUOUS

31

SHEPARD

He told me that the motto at ADM is..."The competitors are our friends, and the customers are our enemies."

MEDFORD

Did you discuss with him the notion
of wearing a wire? Is he willing
to...

32 INTERIOR ADM HALLWAY- CONTINUOUS 32

Whitacre is headed down the hall with a full head of steam.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

You think the automobile companies
can't make a car tomorrow that gets
a hundred miles to the gallon...You
think the TV networks don't know
who's going to win the World Series
before the season starts...

33 INTERIOR FBI SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS- CONTINUOUS 33

SHEPARD

One potential problem I see going
forward with ADM is this guy
Cheviron. He wants to be kept in
the loop on everything we're doing.

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

Pissed off. He storms down the corridors of ADM.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

"Paranoid" is what people who are
trying to take advantage call you
in an effort to get you to drop
your guard-- I read that the other
day in an in-flight magazine...

34 INTERIOR ADM- CHEVIRON'S OFFICE- DAY 34

About a third the size of Whitacre's office with a view of
the loading dock. Whitacre BURSTS in.

WHITACRE

You told me they were only going to
tap one line!

CHEVIRON

They are only monitoring one line.

WHITACRE

That's not true. Not true. I just talked to my wife and some woman named Regina from the phone company called saying both our lines are tapped. My home phone!

Cheviron is sick of Whitacre's antics. He doesn't believe a word. It gets a bit heated.

CHEVIRON

Come on, the phone company doesn't call people and say, 'hello just thought we'd let you know, the FBI is tapping your phone lines.'

WHITACRE

Then why would Regina say that?

CHEVIRON

She didn't say it, you're saying it.

WHITACRE

Call my wife. Call Regina.

Cheviron's tone becomes condescending-- like he's talking to a sick person.

CHEVIRON

Fine, Mark. I will.

Whitacre storms out.

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

Walking away-- satisfied-- he passes A SECRETARY making copies. She tugs on her WOOL TURTLENECK.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I don't like wool on skin. Not even that merino wool they have at Field's in Chicago. Ginger likes it, cuz it's form fitting, but she likes avocados and who wants that texture in their mouth?

ANGLE ON CHEVIRON

Cheviron stares at his phone-- and then relents. He picks up the phone, but not to call Regina.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Who would make up someone named
Regina?

35 INTERIOR FBI DECATUR- DAY

35

On the third floor of some mid-70's default architecture in the heart of downtown Decatur, Brian Shepard sits in an office big enough for himself, a small evidence safe, a picture of his family and the flag. Out the window the stacks of ADM send up great white plumes. Shepard is boning up on anti-trust law when the phone rings.

SHEPARD
FBI. Shepard.

CHEVIRON (O.S.)
Brian, it's Mark Cheviron at ADM.

SHEPARD
Yeah, Mark.

CHEVIRON (O.S.)
Hey, I asked you guys a couple of days ago which lines at Mark Whitacre's house you were going to be monitoring and we agreed it would just be the business line. So, that's all you did right?

Beat.

SHEPARD
I really can't answer that.

36 INTERIOR ADM WHITACRE'S OFFICE- LATER

36

Whitacre stares out through the glass walls drinking a COKE. Mick Andreas and Cheviron are making a bee-line for him.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
(off the Coke Can)
It doesn't taste the same-- when Dwayne Andreas got the government to subsidize corn farmers-- it all changed. Corn syrup got to be cheaper than sugar-- so they went with the high fructose corn syrup from ADM...They said you couldn't tell the difference, but that's just a lie...Like when they replaced butter with topping at the movies...and you know who was behind that...

Mick Andreas and Cheviron march into Whitacre's office on a mission.

ANDREAS

We've decided that we're not going to be cooperating with any further FBI requests.

Whitacre puts it all together. He is outraged. He turns on Cheviron.

WHITACRE

I knew it! I knew it! I knew we should never have done this. I told you, but you wouldn't listen. They said just the office line...

Cheviron has to eat shit here in front of Andreas.

CHEVIRON

Evidently, they were lying to us, too.

WHITACRE

Sounds to me like you can't keep track of what the FBI is doing.

The phone buzzes.

LIZ TAYLOR

(on intercom)

The call you were expecting, Mark.

Whitacre pauses-- then picks up.

WHITACRE

I'm working on this deal in Sweden, I have to take this.

Whitacre picks up the phone. Andreas and Cheviron continue.

CHEVIRON

I told Shepard we're done working with them as of now.

ANDREAS

Damn right.

Whitacre picks up the phone. It's not Sweden.

SHEPARD (O.S.)

Mark, it's Brian can you talk?

Whitacre shifts uncomfortably and tries to cover in front of Mick and Cheviron-- he puts on a phony cheerful voice.

WHITACRE
(over the phone)
Yeah, hey it's good to hear from
you.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
I'd like to bring my Supervisor by
later, around six.

WHITACRE
Great. Hey, I got Mr. Andreas in
here right now. OK, I'll talk to
you soon.

He hangs up the phone and turns back to Mick and Terry.
Whitacre smiles warmly, and then lies through his teeth.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)
So, what do I do if this Shepard
guy calls?

ANDREAS
You let me know and I'll pass it on
to my Dad. But, you're done
talking to them...

37 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S BARN- EVENING

37

Whitacre sits with FBI agents Shepard and Paisley in the
converted barn. A large open room looking more like a theme
restaurant than anything that might have once involved
agriculture. Outside, RUSTY the gardener, fishes leaves from
the pool. Shepard explains the misunderstanding with the
phones.

PAISLEY
The only listening device ~~was~~ the
recorder, Mark.

SHEPARD
We had a trap and trace device on
the home line-- but we can't listen
in with that.

PAISLEY
However, the phone company calling
people and telling them about our
Intel gathering is, well, our face
is red on that one.

SHEPARD
Did you bring the expense reports
we talked about?

Whitacre gives them a folder of paperwork.

WHITACRE

It's all there-- Tokyo, Hong Kong,
Paris and Mexico City.

And under...Whitacre thinks about one thing while discussing another with the agents. He is a gifted man in this capacity. His thoughts take precedence here.

WHITACRE

Just last week Mick and Terry were in Florida with the Corn Refiner's Association. They would have their regular meetings during the day and then at night they'd get together and work out the price fixing...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I read in the Geographic that the skin in ears grows from the inside out-- conveyor belt style. That's how they stay clean. You could make a dot with a felt tip inside and watch it move down your neck.

WHITACRE

...Six months later a liter of Pepsi costs five cents more.

SHEPARD

When's the next meeting?

WHITACRE

January-- somewhere in Asia.

Paisley takes it all in. He cozies up to Whitacre.

AGENT PAISLEY

Mark, I gotta ask you, why are you doing this? We know you lied to us about the phone line and you're afraid of that. But, now you're telling us all this other stuff out of the blue. I gotta ask you why?

The light disappears from Whitacre's eyes.

WHITACRE

Things are going on I don't approve of. I mean, I'm a biochemist-- But, they pulled me into the business side and they're doing things that are illegal. They said...

ANGLE ON RUSTY

He takes the net for cleaning the pool and walks around the barn to the attached six car garage filled with a Range Rover, Ferrari, Mercedes Coupe, BMW, and a Lincoln Town Car.

WHITACRE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...if I was going to grow with ADM
I had to be a part of the business
side of things.

Rusty pulls the garage down on the cars.

38

INTERIOR WHITACRE'S BARN- CONTINUOUS

38

WHITACRE
When they told me to lie, I had to
lie. I lied to you guys and I feel
real bad about it.

This explains the bind Whitacre finds himself in.

SHEPARD
You look at yourself as wearing a
white hat and they're wearing black
hats.

WHITACRE
That's a good way to put it. You
know, when I was a kid my folks
died in an automobile accident. I
was maybe six at the time and this
wealthy man in Ohio adopted me. He
owned amusement parks and he did
real well for himself, real well. I
got a big break-- went to a good
school and all-- I adopted two kids
of my own. I just want to do the
right thing.

PAISLEY
Well, Mark, do you think you'd be
willing to go a few steps further
in helping us?

WHITACRE
What do you mean?

SHEPARD
Would you be willing to wear a
wire? We don't have any other
sources at this time. We need your
help.

Whitacre considers the request-- a chance to be a hero.

PAISLEY

Now you realize that by doing this,
sometime down the line you could
be the guy who has to testify
against your fellow executives,
people you've worked with now for
years. That won't be easy.

He looks around at the good life Whitacre has amassed.

SHEPARD

I'll use my beeper to signal you
when it's time to set up a meeting.

Shepard gets out his beeper and hits a button- "BEEEEP."

SHEPARD

When you hear this-- you call me.

Then Shepard pulls a tape recorder out of his jacket-- a
simple little Radio Shack Dictaphone model. He gives it to
Whitacre.

PAISLEY

You'll be risking a lot.

Whitacre picks up the recorder. The idea of being a White
Knight only becomes real when they hand you a sword.

39

EXTERIOR COORS BREWERY- GOLDEN, COLORADO

39

Whitacre, Wilson and Andreas get out of a Town Car in front
of Coors Corporate headquarters. The Rockies loom in the
background. The men walk toward the doors.

WHITACRE

I was up in Wisconsin last week--
and the guy who is running for
Governor...

ANDREAS

Tommy Thompson.

WILSON

The Republican guy.

WHITACRE

I was told they want funds-- a
campaign contribution, but I told
them we're already at our limit.

ANDREAS

You can go over the limit-- it's
just a small fine.

WILSON

That's what I was saying. If they want a thousand dollars-- you give a thousand. So what if it ends up costing us nine thousand after the fine.

WHITACRE

Twelve thousand after taxes.

The men laugh.

ANDREAS

If the guy's asking you for money, try not giving it to him and see what happens. Just make sure Dad is behind it...Is Dad asking for them?

WILSON

Yeah.

ANDREAS

Okay then.

WHITACRE

I'll let Howard know.

He gets out his cell phone and begins dialing. A FEDEX EMPLOYEE walks by with a BUTTERFLY BANDAGE on his nose.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

There are these butterflies in Central America-- they have poison in their wings. Just enough poison to stop a bird heart. But, the birds know this somehow so they don't eat them...

Through the phone we hear...

WHITACRE (O.S.)

Hi, you've reached Mark Whitacre in ADM's Bioproducts division. Leave a message.

Whitacre punches in his code...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

They're like blue, orange and yellow...real pretty...But, poisonous to birds.

Over the phone we hear a message.

MESSAGE VOICE (O.S.)
Mark, it's Marty Allison calling
from London, we need to...

Whitacre hits a button.

COMPUTER VOICE
Message deleted.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
But, there are other ones--
butterflies-- they're orange, blue
and yellow, too. But, no poison...

Over the phone we hear the next message.

CELL PHONE
Beeeeep.

Whitacre deletes it and hangs up.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
They're just flying around looking
dangerous-- getting by on their
looks.

Wilson and Andreas DISCUSS SOME FEMALE EMPLOYEE IN A MOST
UNTOWARD WAY. They laugh and wait for Whitacre by the doors.

TERRY WILSON
Jesus, Mark this is important
bioproduct stuff were discussing.

The men enter the building and head for a bank of elevators.

WHITACRE
I'm sorry guys I gotta return a
call. The plant. I'll meet you.

Andreas and Wilson hit the elevator button. Whitacre paces
across the lobby and talks on the phone.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
FBI.

WHITACRE
(into phone)
Hey, it's Mark. I told you I was
out on business this week.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
The case is getting some attention
from the bureau, Mark. There's
another agent working with me now.
We need to meet.

WHITACRE
Yeah, but I'm away now.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Any word from Fujiwara?

WHITACRE
I think he's out of the picture.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Based on what? Is Andreas telling
you to say that?

WHITACRE
I'll let you guys know if I hear
anything. I can't talk now. I gotta
meeting.

Whitacre hangs up. And jogs toward the elevators. Wilson and
Andreas hold the door.

40 INTERIOR FBI DECATUR ILLINOIS

40

Shepard sits in the small office with his new partner-- BOB
HERNDON, 33, and squeaky clean. If Shepard looks like he
stepped out of Dragnet, then Herndon looks like he stepped
out of GQ.

SHEPARD
The guy is on a plane half his
life, and in meetings for the rest.

HERNDON
Any tapes of these meetings?

SHEPARD
Not yet, Mr. Whitacre believes his
life may be in danger...

41 EXTERIOR HIGHWAY- DAY

41

Whitacre's life is in danger...He's taking a new BMW for a
ferocious test drive. A big shit-eating eighty-mile-an-hour
spread across his face.

SHEPARD (V.O.)
...He's closely watched at work and
there's reason to believe that ADM
has bugged his home. He's under a
great deal of pressure.

Whitacre looks at the CUP HOLDERS in the Beemer.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
The German word for "cup" is *tasse*,
and saucer-- that's *untertasse*--
the "undercup." What do we have--
"cup" and "saucer." Where does that
get you?

Whitacre pulls into the dealership and screeches to a halt in
front of the BMW SALESMAN. Whitacre smiles and nods.

WHITACRE
We had a good day at work, Tom. A
real good day...

42 INTERIOR FBI, DECATUR- CONTINUOUS

42

Shepard and Herndon.

SHEPARD
You should probably take your gun
off when you meet him-- weapons
make him pretty nervous.

43 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- EVENING

43

The Whitacre family checks out the new car.

SHEPARD (V.O.)
You gotta feel for the guy, he
tells us the truth one day and
wakes up the next with two lives
instead of one.

44 INTERIOR MEXICO CITY AIRPORT- DAY

44

Whitacre checks his messages from a pay phone in the
Admiral's Club in the International Terminal.

MARTY ALLISON (O.S.)
Hey, Mark it's Marty calling again
and...

COMPUTER VOICE
Message deleted...Next message.

BEEEEEP.

Whitacre punches a button.

COMPUTER VOICE (CONT'D)
Message deleted.

Whitacre punches the buttons on his cell phone angrily.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
FBI.

WHITACRE
It's Mark, Brian. It's been hard
for me to return a page. I'm out of
the country.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
We need to know if you had any
further contact from Fujiwara?

WHITACRE
I told you, the guy has stopped
calling.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
What about the price fixing? Have
you been able to make any tapes.

WHITACRE
I think you guys hanging around has
really scared ADM straight, too--
word is we're going to do things by
the book. Mick said it's over. No
more price fixing.

A pause. Shepard is confused.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
What? When did this happen? This
conversation.

WHITACRE
Mick sat me down and said 'Mark,
we're going to start doing things
your way.'

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Mark, the FBI knows about these
crimes-- we're gonna investigate
either way. You told us yourself.

WHITACRE
Either way? What does "either way"
mean?

SHEPARD (O.S.)
We really need to get together.

Both Shepard and Whitacre are losing their patience.

WHITACRE
I told you, it's a different
attitude now, a different approach.

Whitacre hangs up-- frustrated. He walks over to a table in the club where a middle aged German man is waiting-- REINHART RICHTER, 40. There are papers spread out in piles around the men-- stacks of loss, gain and opportunity.

RICHTER
Everything OK?

WHITACRE
Yeah, fine. Kids. Where we're we?

Whitacre reaches underneath his suit coat into his shirt pocket and pulls out his pen.

RICHTER
Uh, Mark...

Whitacre's FOUNTAIN PEN has exploded in his shirt-- leaving a Rorschach across his chest. Richter gestures toward the stain. Whitacre stares at the STAIN.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
One of the Japanese guys told me a story-- this lysine salesman is in a meeting with someone from Conagra or some other company, I don't know...and the client leans forward and says, 'I have the same tie as you...only the pattern is reversed.'-- and then he drops dead. Face down on the table...Alive and then...Dead...Brain aneurism....

45 INTERIOR HAMPTON INN, DECATUR- EVENING

45

Shepard and Herndon are waiting in the most generic of hotel rooms for Whitacre. They check their watches and peak out the drapes at a sparsely populated parking lot. They've been there awhile. Herndon eats a Granola bar and reads the side of the package.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
...Maybe everyone has a sentence like that; a little time bomb..."I have the same tie as you...only the patterns reversed."

HERNDON
There it is, "High Fructose Corn Syrup."

Shepard isn't giving up on Whitacre, yet.

SHEPARD

He said Andreas called him into a marketing meeting.

HERNDON

The government ought to charge him for the room.

Shepard's cell phone rings. Herndon sighs-- .

HERNDON

Here it comes.

SHEPARD

FBI....Uh...huh. You're being honest with me, here...It's been months Mark-- we need some tapes.

46 INTERIOR WHITACRE BMW- NIGHT

46

Whitacre sits alone in the Hampton Hotel parking lot next to the mall, staring up at at a the lights of a room.

WHITACRE

I gotta go Bri, Andreas is coming.

Whitacre opens his brief case and takes out the micro cassette recorder. He looks at it like it's a murder weapon.

SHEPARD (O.S.)

(over the phone)

Mark, we could be tracing this phone call...

WHITACRE

I can't live two lives. They just gave me a hundred thousand dollar raise. I can't risk my job for you guys. I've got a family. I'm building stables across the road.

SHEPARD

But, you told us...

WHITACRE

The price fixing is over...the price of lysine is down to...

And then remembering his lie. Feebly.

WHITACRE

Just a minute, Mick...

The windows of the BMW are fogging up.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Mark, listen to me, the only
logical thing for you to do is
cooperate.

WHITACRE
And what if I don't?

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Then somebody else will and you'll
end up being a defendant.

WHITACRE
For how long, Brian? How long does
this go on for?

Whitacre pushes the buttons on the recorder. He hits eject.
There's no tape in the cradle.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
I wish I could answer that.
Sometimes years. We'll need a lot
of tapes-- maybe hundreds.

WHITACRE
But, the tapes won't say anything.
It's over. Mick said...New policy.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Fine, if that's what he said, then
I want to hear the tape. We need
tapes, Mark.

A beat-- he finally admits it. The windows are completely
fogged.

WHITACRE
I didn't make any, OK? I didn't
make any because it's over. How can
I prove it to you?

47

INTERIOR HOLIDAY INN HOTEL ROOM- NIGHT

47

Whitacre sits shirtless on the bed with the straps of a
polygraph across his torso. Herndon fits him with a blood
pressure cuff and puts electrical clips on his fingers.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
I like my hands. I think they're
probably my favorite part of my
body. I think that can be used to
my advantage in social situations--
if I can get people focused on my
hands then I can get a good result
in the meeting.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Eye contact is real important, too.
I'll use the lotion in the hotel
room on my hands-- the little
bottles. Single serving
portions...Bob has good hands, too.

Herndon takes out a list of questions and watches Whitacre
closely. Shepard watches the needle on the polygraph.

SHEPARD
Now, Bob's going to ask you
questions, Mark. And you
just need to answer them with
a "yes" or "no." That's all
you have to say.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
What do we lose-- a liter of
perspiration while we sleep?
That all goes into the
mattress? Incredible.

HERNDON
Are you married?

WHITACRE
Yes.

HERNDON
Have you ever lied to better your
position?

WHITACRE
No.

HERNDON
We're you born in 1957?

WHITACRE
Yes.

HERNDON
Did Fujiwara ever telephone you at
home and tell you there was a mole
at ADM?

WHITACRE
Yes.

HERNDON
Before this year did you ever lie
to someone you really trusted?

WHITACRE
No.

Whitacre strains to see the read-out to see how he's doing.

HERNDON
Did Fujiwara say he would tell you
who the mole was for 10 million
dollars?

WHITACRE'S POV

The needle traces a reassuringly straight line across the grid.

WHITACRE

Yes.

And under...

HERNDON

Is there currently any price fixing activity in the Bioproducts division of ADM?

WHITACRE (V.O.)

In Tokyo they sell little girl underwear in the vending machines right on the main drag...the Ginza...or whatever. Guys in suits buying used girl panties, how is that OK?

WHITACRE

No.

HERNDON

Now, I'm going to ask you the same questions again to make sure the results are consistent.

Whitacre nods and smiles. Watches the needle- rock steady.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I wonder where Bob carries his gun. FBI agents have to wear them at all times-- even when they're off duty.

HERNDON

Are you married?

WHITACRE

Yes.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I'd like to see Dwayne Andreas hooked up to one of these.

HERNDON

Have you ever lied to better your position?

WHITACRE

No.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Once I told the stewardess I was claustrophobic so I could get an aisle seat...

And under...

48 INTERIOR HOLIDAY INN- HALLWAY

48

Shepard and Herndon step out of the room. Herndon speaks to Whitacre over his shoulder.

HERNDON

You can get dressed, Mark.

The door closes and the agents look at each other.

49 INTERIOR HOLIDAY INN HOTEL ROOM- CONTINUOUS

49

Whitacre buttons his shirt and puts his tie back on. He looks out the hotel room window at the snow. In the parking lot a high school kid drinks a beer while trying to write his name in urine in the snowbank.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

They're all different. Every flake is it's own one-of-a-kind version of itself. And some people still don't believe in God. I mean what more proof do you need than that--

Herndon and Shepard re-enter.

WHITACRE

Hey, how'd I do?

SHEPARD

Mark, we have some problems...

WHITACRE

Wait a minute, I watched the machine, I didn't see any changes...

SHEPARD

Mark, you don't know how to read a polygraph.

WHITACRE

I've heard these things, they're not always 100 per cent accurate. I've been telling the truth. Definitely.

Herndon plays the bad cop.

HERNDON

Mark, you splattered the walls with ink. Come on now, extortionists don't just leave their name and number then go away.

Whitacre nods-- his eyes water, He sighs.

SHEPARD (CONT'D)
I know it's tough keeping it all
bottled up inside, keeping it a
secret. But, there's only one good
choice for you. That's all there's
ever been. There's something
you're hiding, something you're
keeping from us. But, the only way
to protect yourself is to be
completely honest.

WHITACRE
Okay.

Shepard gets another form out of his brief-case. Not a basic
302 this time-- it's A CONFESSION.

SHEPARD
You realize this document can be
used against you in a court of law.

Whitacre nods grimly.

HERNDON
What happened with Fujiwara and the
saboteur?

A beat.

WHITACRE
I made it up. I had to...

Shepard and Herndon cringe on his behalf. The floodgates
open. Shepard transcribes the confession.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)
...We've had problems at the plant
with viruses, we're way behind
projections. Dwayne was thinking
about shutting us down and everyone
was on me to fix it. 'Let's just
blame it all on Whitacre.' That's
how it is there. It was my job they
were talking about. We just moved
here from Europe...they made me VP.

SHEPARD
And the reason you agreed to help
ADM purchase a new bug?

WHITACRE

I wanted to be part of the team. I thought it would help my relationship with Mick if he thought I would do something like that.

HERNDON

And what about the price fixing? It isn't over is it? There's no "new attitude."

WHITACRE

(defeated)

There's been meetings all along-- in the past three weeks even. Nothing's changed...

Again, Whitacre's mind allows him to be two places at once...

WHITACRE

(under)

....and not just in Lysine-- citric acid, gluconate. One guy, he was forced to leave the company because he wouldn't do it-- the gluconate guy...he's out of a job now. They had me go to Chicago and meet with the guys from Ajinomoto to try and set volume levels for lysine production. It's a matter of dividing up the market between the producers and then setting a workable price. There's another meeting in about a month.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

(over)

Mick Andreas or his Dad? They'd never lie for me. They say we're in it together. What a joke. Team building off-site meetings at the some lake in Wisconsin-- I can't protect these guys if they're breaking the law. Hey, I tried. Anybody could see the choices I had. I did my best for ADM. You don't see them here in the electric chair. It's all "Make us lysine, Mark." "Handle the FBI, Mark." "Crap us out some money, Mark."

SHEPARD

If there's anything else you want to add, now's the time. You need to tell us.

WHITACRE

No, that's the full story.

HERNDON

We want tapes, mark.

He slides the confession across to Whitacre who nods and signs. He gives both agents Christmas cards and smiles.

WHITACRE
I'll give you all the tapes you
want. Merry Christmas you guys.

50 INTERIOR PARKING GARAGE ADM- MORNING 50

Whitacre aims the FERRARI into his designated parking space
and gets out of the car.

STEADICAM FOLLOWING WHITACRE

He walks toward the building. As the camera arcs around to
lead him we see that he is actually speaking out loud-- NOT
IN VO. To nobody...

WHITACRE
Seven thirty A.M., Wednesday, March
seventeenth, 1994. I have just
parked my car and am now entering
the office....

Whitacre gets on the elevator with Terry Wilson. Whitacre's
a little off this morning...

WHITACRE (CONT'D)
Terrance Wilson, President of our
corn businesses, did you speak with
our friends in Japan?

TERRY WILSON
He wasn't in.

WHITACRE
I heard from Mimoto last night-- he
is pissed. He said there's not
going to be any peace in lysine
until we bring production down like
we promised.

The elevator doors opens.

TERRY WILSON
In 92 we did exactly what we told
them we would do in terms of
volume. Exactly. Right now, there's
no promise.

WHITACRE
He said he'd like to talk to you at
some point...

TERRY WILSON
Be right there lookin' at him. Say,
"listen here you little mousy
motherfucker."

Wilson peels off into his office. Whitacre continues on
across the open trading floor toward his office. He speaks
under his breath to nobody-- smiling at the world.

WHITACRE
That was Terry Wilson talking about
setting volume and price levels
with our Japanese competitor--
Ajinomoto Corporation.

Whitacre enters his own office-- talking to himself.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)
By the way, there was no discussion
with Mimoto last night. That was
all for illustration purposes only.
I wanna make that clear- no
discussion with Mimoto last night.

He turns off the tape recorder.

51 INTERIOR HAMPTON INN- EVENING

51

Whitacre paces while Herndon and Shepard listen to a tape.
He's got three more recordings in his briefcase.

SHEPARD
Hey, Mark you don't really need to
narrate the tapes for us when
you're making them.

WHITACRE
Right. Absolutely. Not a problem.

HERNDON
And you can talk less.

WHITACRE
I think I did on this one.

Whitacre gives Herndon another tape and a small box.

SHEPARD
Don't force the conversation.

WHITACRE
But, they're good right? I mean,
you guys wouldn't believe what goes
on at these meetings.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I've got well over two million frequent flier miles...maybe more. The equivalent of two trips to the moon. I'm pretty much platinum across the board. Free upgrades...sometimes they'll move me from business to first just cuz the computer tells them I'm there...

52

EXTERIOR RITZ HOTEL- PARIS, FRANCE- DAY

52

Whitacre emerges from the hotel and gets in a cab.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

And you can redeem them for anything now...A Movado watch or a fly-fishing vacation in Montana...

Whitacre tells the driver...

WHITACRE

American Embassy please.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

It's like 5000 miles every time I go to Zurich, Paris, Munich...I don't even know how many miles are in the Delta account...I just give Ginger the statements...I'm probably one of the youngest guys ever to go over a million miles...I get a letter from the CEO every year thanking me...it's a form letter, but it looks like he's really signing it...They probably walk in one day and he signs like a hundred while he's on the phone...

Whitacre gets out of the car and walks into the embassy. Shepard meets him and ushers him into a room where a phone is hooked up to a recorder.

SHEPARD

You should probably use your ADM credit card...

Whitacre dials the phone.

WHITACRE

Sure, great. You make it some place good for dinner last night?

SHEPARD

I just ate in the hotel...

WHITACRE

The hotel...What'd you have?

The call rings through.

WHITACRE

Hey, it's Mark Whitacre calling from Paris for Mick Andreas...Hey, it's Mark. I just got out of the lysine meeting...It went great...I think we can keep it at around a buck and a quarter no problem...

And under...Shepard sneezes.

WHITACRE'S POV

He follows Shepard's hands from Kleenex, to coffee cup, to pen, to a tug on his ear....

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Now what happens? Something you breathe in on an airplane. Some little bacteria and now it's on his hands, the cup, the phone...Probably got it from his kids and now I'll spend the weekend with it in bed...And I'll miss a few days next week, or Alexander'll run a fever and who pays for that? Where does the FBI weigh in on that-- as a cooperating witness-- what does it say about exposure to airborne contaminants...Is ADM compensated for me missing work?

53

INTERIOR O'HARE AIRPORT- DAY

53

Whitacre walks down the concourse carrying a BLACK FOLDER with ADM emblazoned on it. He turns into the bathroom and stares at himself in the mirror. He checks his HAIR and then opens the FOLDER. He removes the legal pad to reveal a secret compartment holding a small TAPE RECORDER.

WHITACRE

(into tape recorder)

This is tape seven, side two...Chicago, O'hare airport...

He looks at himself in the mirror. And then down at his feet. A BLACK CHUCKLE'S CANDY lies on the floor swarmed by ants.

WHITACRE POV

The black chuckle being carted away by ants inches from his wing tips.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

That's a big break, right there-- definitely. There's no choices to be made. No debate. It's there-- you're an ant-- you eat it-- you bring it back for the other ants...They don't say they'd rather have the cherry flavored one...Real simple to live like that.

54 INTERIOR GASLIGHT LOUNGE, O'HARE AIRPORT

54

Wilson sits at a table with two FRENCH EXECUTIVES-- ROLLIER AND CROUY. Wilson wields the FOUNTAIN PEN. The lounge did well in the 70's and has decided to stay there-- most everything is covered in red velvet, except for the waitresses-- they're covered in sequined body suits and fishnets.

Whitacre returns from the bathroom. He puts the TAPE RECORDER/FOLDER on the table. Wilson rests his cocktail ON IT.

WILSON

We cannot have one section of the world where it works and the rest of the world where it doesn't. It will not last...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Debate and discussion. They just keep the black one from making it home...

ROLLIER

We would obviously play the game. But, the Koreans and the Japanese...

CROUY

...They'll cheat.

TERRY WILSON

It'll never work then.

A TRAY OF DRINKS attached to a WALKING CENTERFOLD goes by. Wilson leers...

TERRY WILSON (CONT'D)
Look, everyone has to share numbers. It's so goddamn simple. How the hell else would you do it? It's what we do in the citric acid business and look at the price of vitamins.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Terry doesn't like me very much...He's got blotchy skin...What causes that blotchiness?? It must mean something medical...He'll have a stroke and someone will say-- 'he was blotchy...it happens.'

CROUY
Let's not forget that if prices went up in Europe it's because we talked in Mexico first.

TERRY WILSON
That's right, you *made* it happen.

55 INTERIOR HAMPTON INN DECATUR- EVENING

55

Shepherd has headphones on-- he's excited by what he hears. Whitacre excitedly diagrams the world's Lysine market on a dry erase board for Herndon illustrating the relationships-- a primer in corporate greed.

SHEPARD
(loud because of the headphones)
Mark, these are just the kind of tapes we need.

TERRY WILSON (O.S.)
(over the headphones)
It didn't just go up like that-- you made it happen.

WHITACRE
And we're getting our marching orders from Andreas...it goes all the way up.

SHEPARD
(loud because of the headphones)
We need to improve the quality of the recordings...

WHITACRE
Why don't you guys just bug the building?

SHEPARD
It's not that easy, Mark. There're a lot legal issues...

A beat. Herndon thinks. He has an idea.

HERNDON

Give me your pants.

Whitacre undoes the pants of his SAGE GREEN SUIT.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Being able to do two things at once is a big part of success. I try and do abdominal exercises...isometrics...even when I'm at a meeting. Tensing. Holding. And then releasing. And there are leg ones I do in the car. I'll even floss in the shower while the conditioner is in my hair. During the part where you're just supposed to leave it in. Those things can really add up to a significant time savings.

56

EXTERIOR WHITACRE DRIVEWAY- MORNING

56

Rusty the Gardener blows leaves off the driveway. Whitacre pulls out of the six car garage in a Lincoln Town Car. He yells at Rusty over the leaf blower.

WHITACRE

Hey, Rusty, check this out.

Whitacre gets out of the car and places his briefcase on the hood.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

What do you think?

RUSTY THE GARDENER

It's a nice briefcase.

WHITACRE

But, wait.

Whitacre opens the briefcase and pulls a secret panel to reveal a TAPE RECORDER. He couldn't be more proud.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

That's a Nagra model number 34-A, right there. The bureau had that custom made for me-- Mark Whitacre secret agent double O, fourteen.

RUSTY THE GARDENER

Why double O fourteen?

WHITACRE

Cuz I'm twice as smart as double O seven.

57

INTERIOR ADM CORPORATE JET- DAY

57

Whitacre, wearing the SAGE COLORED SUIT he gave Herndon, sits with Andreas and some ADM SUITS on the COMPANY PLANE. Andreas chats with one CO-WORKER and then turns to Whitacre.

ANDREAS

Whatever happened to that girl who was working for us-- didn't she move to California? What's her name, Tina?

WHITACRE

She's getting married.

ANDREAS

My Tina is getting married?

WHITACRE

Two or three weekends from now.

ANDREAS

That won't last for very long. She's kind of a do-do head, you know? She'll be back. I just hope she doesn't get pregnant. Fuck up her body.

WHITACRE

Uh.

ANDREAS

Nice body. It'd ruin her tits. She's got the greatest tits in the world...

He leans in to Whitacre.

ANDREAS

In the world.

Whitacre looks out the window at white billowing clouds.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

When polar bears hunt, they crouch down by a hole in the ice and wait for a seal to pop up. They keep one paw over their nose so that they blend in. Cuz' they've got those black noses. They'd blend in perfectly if not for the nose...

58 EXTERIOR JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT, ORANGE COUNTY- DAY 58

Whitacre descends the steps of the jet followed by Andreas and some other SUITS. Whitacre peels off the group.

WHITACRE
I'm just gonna hit the head here.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
So the question is. How do they know their noses are black? From looking at other polar bears? Do they see their reflections in the water? And think, "I'd be invisible if not for that." That seems like a lot of thinking for a bear.

59 INTERIOR AIRPORT MEN'S ROOM- CONTINUOUS 59

An AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN, 30's, stands at the sink. Other than that the room is empty.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN
Mr. Whitacre, could you follow me?

The two men enter a stall.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN
Can I ask you to remove your shirt?

Whitacre obliges.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
There's something great about walking into a conference room when there's a pad of paper and a pencil in front of every chair...Most guys with a science background don't get to see what goes on...

60 INTERIOR MARRIOTT HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM 60

A UNIFORMED HOTEL WORKER arranges the orange juice, coffee, croissants, melon plate. A pen and pad of paper is put in front of every seat. A FLIP CHART stands ready in the corner. The meticulous worker makes everything perfect, pausing for a moment to adjust A LAMP.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Usually the hotel's name is embossed on the pencils and they have someone who sharpens them to perfect points like collie dog noses-- that's what they remind me of. Maybe they come from the factory that way. And there's always a plate of danish...danishes?-- an almond thing-- or a cheese danish with a big cherry blob in the middle...

61 INTERIOR MEN'S ROOM- CONTINUOUS

61

The AFRICAN AMERICAN AGENT finishes shaving Whitacre's chest. He takes out a roll of surgical tape and attaches a small NAGRA RECORDER to WHITACRE. Small wires attach to switches sewn into Whitacre's pants pockets.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

The almond thing makes a lot of crumbs and I usually use my pencil to sweep them away like one of those tools professional waiters use at the Decatur Club....

AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN

You want to try it?

Whitacre flips the pocket switch.

WHITACRE

Hey, neat.

62 EXTERIOR JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT- CONTINUOUS

62

Whitacre and Andreas duck into a limo. One of the ADM SUITS who flew in on the jet, slaps Andreas on the back.

ADM SUIT

Good luck with the Japs. And as your lawyer I'd advise you to pat 'em down for wires.

Andreas laughs at the suit, but Whitacre's not laughing. The limo pulls away.

WHITACRE

Uh, should we really pat them down?

ANDREAS

They don't have the balls to mess with ADM.

Whitacre sighs.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

When it's over the board of directors at ADM is gonna understand. They're gonna see the position I was in and that I acted in everyone's best interest, I think that's the only conclusion they can reach...

63 INTERIOR MARRIOTT HOTEL LOBBY- MOMENTS LATER 63

Whitacre, Andreas, Yamada and Ikeda get on the elevator. A sign says, "THE MARRIOTT WELCOMES AJINOMOTO CORPORATION AND ADM."

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I mean I'm the youngest division President they've ever had and I speak a number of languages fluently...

64 VIDEO IMAGE OF CONFERENCE ROOM 64

The same room we saw being prepared, now from the POV of a hidden camera. The four executives enter the room and move toward the table. Everything is perfect. Whitacre notices the LAMP and walks right toward it-- curious. The LAMP is the CAMERA.

SHEPARD (V.O.)

Look away, Mark, look away...

Whitacre's face fills the wide angle lens. Shepard and Herndon huddle around the video monitor. HERNDON IS DRESSED LIKE A UNIFORMED HOTEL WORKER. SHEPARD is still dressed like a G-man from the 50's.

HERNDON

I told him it was in the lamp.

65 INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM- A LITTLE LATER 65

Whitacre turns from the lamp. The EXECS sit around the table eating the BAKED GOODS and discussing business.

YAMADA

We already spent more than one year, uh, to get better market situation in lysine.

WHITACRE

We talked a little bit about it in Paris, but we need to have an understanding on volume.

VIDEO IMAGE OF ANDREAS

It's off center-- just the top of his head and then tilts down and zooms into his TIE.

66 INTERIOR SURVEILLANCE ROOM- CONTINUOUS

66

Shepard struggles with the joystick that controls the lipstick camera in the lamp-- his framing is way off.

HERNDON

Widen out, Bri, we need a wide shot of these guys working together.

Still struggling with the joystick.

67 INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM- MARRIOTT HOTEL- CONTINUOUS

67

ANDREAS

We have a big board of directors. We have public shareholders. Like you, we've suffered. Prices are nowhere near where we hoped they would be. Now the question is, if the market grows, who gets it?

Ikeda goes over to the easel and makes a PIE CHART as a visual aid for Andreas' proposal.

ANDREAS

...If Kyowa Hakko, Miwon and Cheil Corporation each get two thousand tons, then we can divide up the rest. If we're going to have any stability at all...

And under...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I think some of these ADM guys lie about their golf scores. It doesn't even matter and they still lie about it and that says something about character.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
I mean I've seen guys putt three
times and say they got a par...Or
they'll go off into the woods to
find their ball and they'll move it
from behind a tree or from under a
leaf. I admit I've done it a
couple of times...but I don't tell
people I'm a really good golfer
when I'm not...I'm sure if I worked
at it...took lessons...

Whitacre is distracted by a CLICKING SOUND. He shifts
uncomfortably. Andreas notices the sound and pauses.

WHITACRE'S POV

His briefcase seems to be the source of the clicking. Ikeda
gets Andreas' attention.

IKEDA
We need some specific number.

ANDREAS
What would you be willing to
accept? Isn't that the question?

More CLICKING. Whitacre nudges his briefcase.

68 INTERIOR SURVEILLANCE ROOM-CONTINUED 68
Shepard and Herndon.

SHEPARD
What's Mark doing?

They pan over to Whitacre. He's OPENING the briefcase with
the hidden tape recorder.

HERNDON
What an idiot!

69 INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM- MARRIOTT HOTEL- CONTINUOUS 69
As YAMADA approaches the easel with Andreas, Whitacre has
opened his brief case. The clicking is coming from INSIDE.

YAMADA
The others will say that ADM has
already eaten all the growth.

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

He removes the panel concealing the tape recorder, fiddles with a pieces of the lining caught in the apparatus.

ANDREAS (V.O.)

You gotta remember we have a lot more capacity than we're using. We could be growing twenty thousand tons, isn't that right, Mark?

Whitacre is still fiddling with the case.

ANDREAS

Mark? What're you doing?

Andreas crosses the room and, without looking inside at the recorder that is ruining his life, shuts the case.

ANDREAS

I need your input here.

VIDEO TAPE OF THE MEETING

Ikeda is standing at the easel making calculations next to the pie chart.

IKEDA

(on the tape)

ADM will be allocated it's recent production plus a number we will call alpha.

70

INTERIOR DEPT. OF JUSTICE CONFERENCE ROOM- CHICAGO

70

Pull back to reveal Herndon and Shepard presenting their prized tape to ROBIN MANN ESQ, early 40's-- humorless and contrary. The tape plays...

ROBIN MANN

What did he say-- I can't understand him.

ANDREAS

(on the tape)

I don't care what you call it, just as long as we get what we want.

The men on the tape all laugh. Andreas walks away. Whitacre and Ikeda shake hands. And then Whitacre rips off the sheet of paper from the easel with the PIE CHART on it.

WHITACRE

(on the tape)

I guess I should probably keep
this, huh?

Shepard freezes the tape triumphantly.

ROBIN MANN

Where's the agreement? There's just
a discussion.

HERNDON

If this isn't an agreement, then
what are they doing there?

SHEPARD

Don't get bogged down in the words,
look at the actions.

ROBIN MANN

I've looked. I see a chart with a
bunch of numbers. But, I can't
pinpoint any agreement per se.

HERNDON

What do you want? The guy is
standing there dividing up the
market plain as day.

Herndon opens up the evidence bag and shows her the flip-
chart page that Whitacre took at the end of the meeting-- a
smoking gun.

ROBIN MANN

It could just be a proposal. All
the other companies weren't there.
Nobody used the word "agreement."
I'm just telling you-- as a lawyer--
what their lawyers are going to
say.

Herndon and Shepard look at Whitacre FROZEN ON THE MONITOR.
They are discouraged.

HERNDON

I don't know how much more we can
ask of the guy.

ROBIN MANN

I'm not going to move for
indictments with this. I need more.

71

INTERIOR DECATUR CLUB- DAY

71

Whitacre sits with MARTY ALLISON, 35, who's voice we've heard on Whitacre's voice mail many times. The two are old friends and co-workers-- Marty's been trying to get Mark's ear for some time now. They've got some business together.

MARTY ALLISON

I feel like a real jerk here, but I need the dough.

WHITACRE

Nah, we'll figure something out.

MARTY ALLISON

I hope it's not a big deal, but I've been looking at a house and I need the cash back.

WHITACRE

Marty, when I hired you, what did you want?

MARTY ALLISON

Fifty grand.

WHITACRE

But, I went to Wilson and told him you wouldn't work here for less than seventy-five-- and I got it. You were the first guy I hired.

MARTY ALLISON

Mark, you've always been real generous with me and...

Whitacre waves off the flattery.

WHITACRE

I gotta leave town for a couple of days, but when I get back, here's what I want you to do...

And under...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I like to think of myself as a good gift-giver. It shows that you're thinking about the other person even when they're not right in front of you.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
I know that Ginger likes jewelry
and that the kids like stuff from
other countries...Even if you just
pick it up at the duty free at the
airport with whatever money you
have left over.

72 INTERIOR HAMPTON INN HOTEL- NIGHT

72

Whitacre drops off more tapes for Shepard and Herndon.

SHEPARD
We got a problem, Mark. You can't
take our equipment to Japan. We
have no jurisdiction.

WHITACRE
So I'll take notes like in
Vancouver.

Whitacre takes out his Dictaphone and puts it on the bed.

SHEPARD
Well, sure, but there's something
else I'd like you to think about.

WHITACRE
Okay.

SHEPARD
Like I said, we can't give you any
recording equipment.

HERNDON
But, if you taped the meeting on
your own and then gave us the
tapes...

WHITACRE
So you want me to make a tape.

HERNDON
We're not allowed to say that. But,
the sooner we get enough evidence,
the sooner you can stop the taping.

WHITACRE
What if I get caught there?

SHEPARD
I don't know anything about
Japanese laws, but if you're
arrested, we may not be able to
provide much help.

HERNDON
That's why we need these lysine
association meetings on US
soil...Make it easier to wrap this
up.

Shepard picks up the recorder.

SHEPARD
You can't use any of our equipment.

73 INTERIOR HICKORY POINT MALL- LATER 73

Whitacre walks out of the RADIO SHACK with a small bag.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
I wonder if Brian and Bob are
really allowed to do that-- it
seems kind of shady...I probably
should've gotten them to sign
something just in case. Turned the
tables on them seeing how I'm the
one going above and beyond the call
of duty...

He heads out of the mall.

74 INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM IMPERIAL PALACE HOTEL- JAPAN 74

Whitacre, Wilson and a collection of ASIAN LYSINE EXECS
discuss prices and customers.

WILSON
Do we want to talk about
Latin America?

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Guys tape meetings all the
time-- let's say a guy is
dyslexic and he needs to take
notes...What's he gonna do?

Mimoto and Ikeda enter.

IKEDA
Good morning, we are late.

WHITACRE
No problem, no problem, you lost
twenty- thousand tons, but, hey...

The group laughs at the WACKY PRICE FIXING JOKE. Whitacre
checks his watch.

WHITACRE
Excuse me...I gotta take a moment.

Whitacre walks down the hall toward the rest room.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I read this thing about moustaches
on the flight back from
Zurich...What facial hair says to
women about a man's level of
honesty. I think maybe it was in
Esquire Magazine...Some
psychological theory...

75 INTERIOR BATHROOM- CONTINUOUS

75

Whitacre reaches into his suit jacket and takes out the
recorder. He studies himself in the bathroom mirror and then
flips the tape.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I should ask Brian and Bob about it-
- get the FBI's point of view...

WHITACRE

Imperial Palace Hotel, side two
tape one...

Just as he is putting the tape back into his jacket-- the
door opens. ONE OF THE LYSINE EXECS enters.

LYSINE EXEC

Things are going well.

Whitacre conceals the recorder.

WHITACRE

Want to get back in there.

76 INTERIOR MOVIE THEATER- NIGHT

76

Whitacre sits alone fully engrossed by the movie.

ANGLE ON THE MOVIE SCREEN

"The Firm." TOM CRUISE, as Mitch McDeere talks with FBI agent
Wayne Tarrance, played by ED HARRIS at a DOGTRACK.

MCDEERE

Doesn't the dog ever get the bone?

TARRANCE

Yeah, I hear it happens every once
in awhile. It's a disaster, they
can never get that dog to run
again.

(MORE)

TARRANCE (cont'd)
Listen, Mitch, Mr. Boyles wants me
to tell you how much the bureau
appreciates...

MCDEERE
A million dollars.

TARRANCE
What?

MCDEERE
A million dollars in a numbered
account in Switzerland. IBG Bank
International in Zurich.

TARRANCE
You sure as hell turned greedy
overnight.

MCDEERE
...And my brother out now.

TARRANCE
Your brother is a convicted felon,
Mitch.

MCDEERE
Then get yourself another snitch.

Tarrance responds with a string of expletives and threats to
knock McDeere's teeth down his throat. His verbal assault is
put to a halt when his phone rings. It's Holly Hunter
calling from the nearby parking lot. She plays Tarrance an
incriminating tape of what he has just said. McDeere is
wearing a wire. McDeere has him now.

MCDEERE
You want to reconsider?

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Most of the guys the government
gets to do the tough stuff are
probably drug dealers and mafia
guys. I'm probably the only guy
like me they've ever met--

77 EXTERIOR RURAL HIGHWAY- NIGHT

77

Whitacre drives his new RANGE ROVER through the darkness.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Maybe there's some guy who spied on the Russians and they had to put him in that witness protection unit...It's just me and some Russian guy who's now a girl's soccer coach in New Mexico or something...

78 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION BEDROOM- NIGHT

78

Whitacre tries to creep into the dark room without waking his wife. He starts to get undressed. Her voice in the darkness surprises him.

GINGER

Were you with Brian and Bob all this time?

WHITACRE

Yeah, we had to go over some tapes and...

GINGER

Mark, Brian called-- I know you weren't with him.

Busted.

GINGER

Did you go again?

WHITACRE

I needed to unwind.

GINGER

You've seen that picture like five times now...

She turns on the light to discuss her concerns. Mark is standing there without his shirt on-- A LARGE PATCH OF HAIR is missing from the middle of his chest.

WHITACRE

What's wrong with that?

GINGER

What's wrong? Why is your chest shaved, Mark? Why are there holes cut in your suit clothes? Why aren't you a part of this family anymore?

Whitacre tries to laugh off her concern. He sits down on the bed and puts her hand on his smooth chest.

WHITACRE

You know they needed to shave me
for the tape recorder. They needed
to...I'm a part...

GINGER

I need you at home, the kids need
you to be their father.

WHITACRE

I'm doing all this for you and the
kids. I didn't ask for this-- but
I want to give this family
everything. That's why I'm working
so much.

GINGER

I don't know who you work for
anymore, Mark. Do you?

A beat. He smiles warmly at her.

79

INTERIOR FBI DECATUR- DAY

79

Warm summer day-- out the window the smoke stacks of ADM send
plumes of white smoke into the blue sky. Shepard and Herndon
sit in their SHIRTSLEEVES transcribing tapes in the tiny
office. There's a knock on the door. Shepard checks to see
who it is through the eye-hole. Whitacre enters wearing the
SAGE COLORED SUIT- full of confidence.

WHITACRE

Hey guys, I was in the
neighborhood. I got some more
tapes.

SHEPARD

Thanks, Mark. Come on in.

WHITACRE

And I've learned some important
things recently. I've been told I'm
probably going to be the next
President of ADM.

He glows.

HERNDON

Really?

SHEPARD

Who told you that?

WHITACRE

And that's not all. I'd say that ten of the products produced by ADM are price fixed.

SHEPARD

Ten?

WHITACRE

I would estimate that for all the companies involved, the total extra profit is in the range of 800 million to one billion dollars. That's just from the price-fixing.

SHEPARD

Can you tell us what products?

Whitacre smiles-- he's got something else on his mind.

WHITACRE

You know, Brian, if all these companies are charged, they're going to be paying an awful lot in fines. Don't you think?

SHEPARD

I don't know, they might end up paying. But, nobody knows for sure how this will turn out.

HERNDON

We still need to get everyone together making an actual agreement before we have a case.

WHITACRE

Sure, sure I know that. But, I've taken a lot of risks and I need to think about my family.

SHEPARD

What do you mean?

WHITACRE

Well, I'd like it if, in their fine, ADM was ordered to pay me ten year's salary.

SHEPARD

Well, Mark...

WHITACRE

It's only fair. Also, one other thing.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (cont'd)
I never expected this investigation
would go on as long as it has. It's
been almost two years and I think I
should get total immunity if I
agree to cooperate through the end.

SHEPARD
I can't grant you immunity Mark,
you know that.

Whitacre smiles wishfully like a big kid. Herndon senses that
something's up.

HERNDON
Hey, Mark, it's kind of warm in
here-- why don't you take off your
jacket, sit down and we can talk
about this.

WHITACRE
Oh, no, Bob, that's okay. Let me
know if you want to reconsider.

Whitacre leaves. Herndon looks at Shepard.

SHEPARD
What was that about?

80 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MARK'S OFFICE- EVENING 80

Whitacre labels the tape of the FBI agents and tosses it in a
box-- with other tapes.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
These floods out on the
Mississippi, you have to think
about these. It just looks like
some boy scouts and sand bags on
the news...right until you have
your stock plummet because of crop
losses...Then it looks like
someone's knee deep in your kids
college education looking for their
photo albums...Brian doesn't
understand stock options. He
doesn't see what can happen if they
take those away from me.

81 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MASTER BEDROOM- NIGHT 81

Ginger alone in bed at 3 AM during a rain storm. The regular
patter of rain is punctuated by the sound of a SMALL ENGINE.
She gets out of bed and goes to the window.

Whitacre stands in his bathrobe in the rain with the LEAF BLOWER. There's one wet leaf stuck to the pavement and he's focussed the full power of the blower on it but it's not going anywhere. Three deer stand like statues in the yard, oblivious to the rain.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

We got a deer problem here. They're in the corn, they're eating the small trees, they charge into the road. Too many deer. Take away all the predators and that's going to happen...No bears, no coyotes...So now you have all these deer-- weak and desperate.

ANGLE ON THE DEER

Close enough to hear the rain on their METAL BODIES. They are YARD STATUES.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

And then one gets sick and they all get sick. Because they're broke and hungry and they make mistakes. Who's fault is that? You can't blame the deer for not having predators...

82 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION DRIVEWAY- NIGHT/RAIN

82

Ginger approaches in her night gown under an umbrella.

GINGER

Mark, what are you doing?

Whitacre can't tear himself away from the lone leaf.

GINGER

Come inside Mark, what's happening to you?

She takes his arm and tries to lead him toward the house, but he turns on her. His eyes are filled with terror. She turns off the blower.

WHITACRE

You want to be someone living in some small house? You want to be like those people who can't afford cars for their kids?

GINGER

You're not better than somebody else because you have more cars or a bigger salary. Or some stables across the road. You used to know that, you used to know what mattered. You need to find that out again-- you need to turn to God.

Whitacre stares at the leaf, trying to move it with his will.

WHITACRE

(softly so God won't hear)
I don't need God.

83 INTERIOR ADM WHITACRE'S OFFICE- DAY

83

Whitacre flags down KIRK SCHMIDT, 40, a co-worker and a friend who is passing by.

WHITACRE

Hey, Kirk, I'm gonna be heading off to Europe and I was thinking I'd deliver the check for the ABP deal in person.

SCHMIDT

Remind me, ABP deal?

WHITACRE

Threonine microbe, they've made some substantial improvements and we need to get it into the market. I got the invoice somewhere...

He fishes it out of a pile of papers and slides it across the desk.

SCHMIDT

We can overnight it.

WHITACRE

Nah, I'm gonna see this Thorstensson guy. I'll just hand it to him.

SCHMIDT

Then I'll get it over. Lysine's going great guns Mark, price is up to one-twenty.

Out the window of the office Andreas looks at the tote board and smiles broadly-- he gives Whitacre a big thumbs up. Whitacre smiles and flashes a thumbs up back.

84

EXTERIOR SAVOY BAUR EN VILLE, ZURICH- DAY

84

Whitacre emerges from the elegant hotel and heads down the crowded Bahnhofstrasse.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

ADM: Supermarket to the world...We'll have to change that. When it all comes out-- maybe the board'll want to change the name of the company altogether. Like when all those companies became Beatrice in the 80's. There was that woman, 'We're Beatrice...' They made light bulbs and corn and everything...

Whitacre enters the SWISS BANK CORPORATION. He approaches A UNIFORMED PORTER.

WHITACRE

Guten Morgen, Ich mochte Herr Briel finden, bitte?

The porter points toward a desk.

WHITACRE

Danke schon.

Whitacre approaches a SECRETARY. Behind him another woman shrieks and falls down. The heel has broken on her shoe. Her papers scatter everywhere-- the secretary smirks at the FALLEN WOMAN.

WHITACRE

Guten Tag...Wie gehts es Ihnen? Ich suche Herr Briel, bitte.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

They have a word for laughing at the misfortune of others. A word for that. Schadenfreude...We don't have any words for that kind of thing. In a way, it's not really funny.

The secretary buzzes and moments later a wooden door opens. DANIEL BRIEL emerges smiling.

BRIEL

Mr. Whitacre...Wie gehts? Gut dass wir uns eben getroffen haben.

The two men vanish behind a door.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Brian and Bob always ask me if I do much sightseeing on business trips...They don't understand.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
You fly in, go to the meeting, go
to the hotel, go to another meeting
and get back on the plane. It's
not that glamorous.

85

INTERIOR HAMPTON INN- AFTERNOON

85

Whitacre hands another small stack of tapes to Shepard and
Herndon-- The agents are very excited, Whitacre has good
news.

WHITACRE
We're having another association
meeting to work out some issues in
lysine-- dividing up volume,
setting prices for some markets.

SHEPARD
Europe again?

WHITACRE
There's a price fixing
investigation into cement
manufacturing there-- it has
everybody spooked. Europe's out.

HERNDON
We can't video tape in Japan--
that's not gonna help us.

WHITACRE
Hawaii.

SHEPARD
Hawaii?

HERNDON
What's his name, Mimoto, we have
him saying on tape-- last fall
that...

He checks a three ring note-book full of transcriptions.

HERNDON
...they were "concerned about
severe penalties for anti-trust in
the US."

Whitacre smiles, very impressed with himself.

SHEPARD
So, why are they coming to the US?

WHITACRE
I got the association past their
fears.

ANGLE ON A GOLF BALL

Crushed by a driver-- the grass and tee fly.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

The state bird of Hawaii is the Nānā
Nānā-- it's a kind of land based
goose and the state motto is va mau
ke ea o ka aina i ka pono-- the
customer is the enemy and the
competitor is your friend.

86 EXTERIOR SHERATON MAKAHA GOLF COURSE- OAHU

86

Mimoto, Ikeda, Whitacre, Wilson and ANOTHER FOURSOME OF ASIAN
LYSINE EXECS crowd around a tee box in their golf clothes.
Mimoto watches his drive split the palm lined fairway and
head toward the Pacific. Wilson tees up his ball.

TERRY WILSON

What should we play for?

MIMOTO

If we win, we get Tyson Foods.

All the execs laugh at the thought of dividing up the world's
lysine market through golf. An EXEC IN A VISOR chimes in.

VISOR

Or, we could play a thousand tons a
stroke.

IKEDA

We already know Whitacre's score--
sixty seven plus alpha.

More laughter.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I got a hole-in-one once-- back in
Ohio when I was about eighteen.
There was a little blurb in the
paper and I won a windbreaker from
the country club...I still have the
news clipping somewhere stashed
away for safe keeping...

THE T-BOX THROUGH A CROSS-HAIRS

A series of photographs are snapped of the golfers.

87 A NEARBY HILLSIDE

87

Herndon and Shepard snap photographs with a very long lens from a golf cart parked on hillside.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

But, mainly I was active in the local 4-H Club. I think 4-H is a real good thing for kids...I got a lot of recognition from them and it's not just some local thing. It's a federal program-- part of the Department of Agriculture.

OTHER FBI AGENTS dressed for the links shadow the lysine execs using LONG RANGE RECORDING EQUIPMENT.

88 INTERIOR SHERATON MAKAHA- ANOTHER HOTEL ROOM

88

Herndon and Whitacre-- like a boxer and his corner man.

HERNDON

Just remember-- I want you to poll the room and get them to use the word "agreement."

WHITACRE

Okay, Bob. It's gonna be a great meeting.

HERNDON

Let the action come to you.

WHITACRE

I gotta talk, Bob.

HERNDON

I know that...

WHITACRE

I mean, I'm representing ADM. Otherwise, everybody would be suspicious.

HERNDON

You can talk. Just don't dominate. We want to see others involvement. OK?

WHITACRE

Definitely.

HERNDON

It's that time again.

WHITACRE

Oh, sure no problem.

Whitacre takes off his shirt as the two men face each other in the hotel room-- an uncomfortable moment. Herndon starts spreading shave cream across Whitacre's chest.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

When it's over I think we'll be friends, all of us. Good friends. I'll have Bob over and Brian and we'll bar-b-que. Maybe not so much with some of the guys over at ADM-- probably not Mick and Terry...But guys like Sid and Marty and Rheinhard we've been through a lot together...

89

EXTERIOR POOL SIDE- SHERATON RESORT

89

Wilson, Mimoto, Ikeda and Visor sip umbrella drinks.

TERRY WILSON

We can't be manipulated by these Goddamn buyers. Thank God we have them, but they are not my friends.

The men all nod. Whitacre appears pool side and begins to unbutton his Hawaiian shirt. Wilson turns to Ikeda.

TERRY WILSON

You're my friend. I want to be closer to you than I am to any customer, cause you can make it so I can make money or I can't make money. And all I want...

Nobody is listening to him. They all stare at Whitacre. A LARGE PATCH OF HIS CHEST HAIR IS SHAVED.

WHITACRE

What?

Whitacre looks down at his chest-- so does everyone else. Whitacre's got some explaining to do.

WHITACRE

Oh, that. Nah, I had to take this physical for some life insurance the wife wanted. They shaved me for the heart thing. Itches...

Whitacre smiles shyly and settles into the pool.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

It's not really lying when you're doing it to serve some greater purpose...I think that's what God would say-- it's not all cut and dry-- like that and you can't really send a lie out into the world on its own, you wouldn't do that with a child per se...A lie needs the company of other lies-- and so it may look like a lot of lies in the end, but it's really just the first one that counts....

90 INTERIOR SHERATON MAKAHA- MEETING SUITE

90

A medium sized room overlooking the grounds. Orange Juice and fruit trays and an easel in the corner. The room seems a little cramped for the number of men assembling-- Whitacre, Wilson, Mimoto, Ikeda and a number of others from Asia and Europe. Whitacre searches for SOMETHING.

TERRY WILSON

Damn Mark, can't you call and get us a bigger room. This is crazy.

WHITACRE

Anyone seen my briefcase?

MIMOTO

We move to bigger room.

They start to pack up their stuff. Whitacre panics.

WHITACRE

No, no. I don't think they have one....Is my brief case behind the flip-chart?

91 INTERIOR SURVEILLANCE ROOM- TWO ROOMS AWAY

91

Herndon enters with the BRIEF CASE-- Shepard is watching Whitacre on a monitor with other JUNIOR AGENTS.

HERNDON

He left it in his room.

92 INTERIOR SHERATON MAKAHA- MEETING SUITE

92

Whitacre on the phone.

WHITACRE

Yeah, it's just there's more of us
than we expected. Nothing larger?
Really? Can you check again...

CU ON THE PHONE BASE

Whitacre's finger holds down the receiver switch. He's
talking to no one. Mimoto picks up his chair and moves it
right in front of THE LAMP/CAMERA. Another problem.

WHITACRE

Call us if anything opens up. It's
Whitacre, Mark Whitacre.

He hangs up and crosses toward Mimoto.

WHITACRE

Uh, Mr. Mimoto, I think you might
be able to see the easel better...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

You think Mimoto would be any
different in my position? They
have guys filing expense reports
for sex trips to Bangkok at
Ajinomoto Corporation...Any of
these guys who have kids and found
themselves in a bind with the
authorities...

93 INTERIOR SHERATON MAKAHA- SURVEILLANCE ROOM

93

A suite down the hall. Shepard stares at the back of Mimoto's
chair on the monitor. Helpless. They've come a long way to
go back empty handed.

Suddenly the room comes into view as Whitacre moves the chair
from in front of THE LAMP/CAMERA.

WHITACRE

(on the monitor)

What if we just move your chair
over here.

SHEPARD

Thatta boy, Mark.

94 INTERIOR SHERATON MAKAHA- MEETING SUITE

94

Terry Wilson starts the meeting.

TERRY WILSON

I'd like to welcome everybody here,
glad everyone could make it and
sorry for those who can't play golf
tomorrow-- we're gonna have a good
time.

Whitacre's POV-- he scans the room.

TERRY WILSON

We have an old saying at ADM
that applies here. It's
better to have the elephants
inside the tent pissin' out,
than outside pissin' in.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

It's like that game on TV
where one guy knows a word
and tries to make the other
one say it...another word for
"deal"...how about
"consensus," or
"understanding." Maybe they'd
take "deal"-- that's like
"agreement."..

MIMOTO

Outside piss?

Language problem again.

TERRY WILSON

It's better to be part of the
group.

WHITACRE

Competitors are our friends,
remember? Customers the enemy.

The group nods in agreement with Whitacre's translation. JM
SUH of Cheil Corporation takes issue with this. The two
argue...Whitacre looks at SUH, who is LOSING HIS HAIR...

SUH

I want to know why Cheil
Corporation has been excluded
from association in the past.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Male pattern hair loss can be
a real set back...I mean a
lot of women, their father's
are bald so they're kind of
used to it...But, still
seeing it in the drain every
morning in your thirties,
that's not fair at all and
this Minoxidil thing-- it's
not really a cure...

MIMOTO

I explain it to you on the phone
many times...

Suh is kind of a baby-- Mimoto doesn't like him. Wilson
steps in.

TERRY WILSON
If the market is what we think it
is...

There's a KNOCK ON THE DOOR. Conversation ceases.

WHITACRE
We have a couple other people
joining us I think?

MR. CHAUDRET from EUROLYSINE is making himself a fruit plate.

MR. CHAUDRET
From Sewon in Korea.

MIMOTO
And one from the FBI?

Whitacre freezes. He's caught. He looks at the business
men...DO THEY ALL KNOW?

WHITACRE (V.O.)
That's why there can't be any
leaves on the walk. They give it
away...Like the ants-- they can see
a trail of ants...

Mimoto smiles right at Whitacre-- the walls close in, and
then, the room bursts into laughter. Whitacre gets it. He
smiles back.

WHITACRE
And seven from the Federal Trade
Commission.

IT'S ALL A JOKE. More laughter and more knocks. Whitacre
goes to the door. Mimoto calls out.

MIMOTO
Yes? FTC?

Whitacre opens the door to find HERNDON DRESSED LIKE A HOTEL
EMPLOYEE-- he hands Whitacre the brief case.

HERNDON
This was left in the lobby. The
concierge thought it might belong
to one of you gentleman.

WHITACRE
Okay. Hey, thanks.

Herndon closes the door.

MR. CHAUDRET
You forgot your briefcase in the
lobby?

WHITACRE
When I was signing for the food-- I
must've left it.

MR. CHAUDRET
In Paris it would have already been
sold.

More laughter.

VIDEO MONITOR

SUH
How can we know ADM will stay at
agreed upon levels?

TERRY WILSON
Our preference is to trust each
other. If we find someone lyin'--
then we hire some mafia figure and
rub you out.

The group laughs.

TERRY WILSON
If we can't trust each other in the
end, it ain't gonna work.

MIMOTO
You are okay for that?

A beat.

SUH
Yeah, I'm all right.

WHITACRE
So what are we saying then?

Wilson looks at Whitacre like he's an idiot.

TERRY WILSON
What, is there a language problem
here?

WHITACRE
So, everyone is, uh...

They just said so. It's like Whitacre is playing Password.

MIMOTO

Agreed. Uh, five companies agree on quantity for the first time.

The men all smile at each other-- hand shakes and high fives.

95 INTERIOR DEPT OF JUSTICE CONFERENCE ROOM- CHICAGO 95

Shepard and Herndon have been playing the new tape for Robin Mann and US ANTITRUST ATTORNEY JAMES MUTCHNIK. Shepard and Herndon beam with pride.

SHEPARD

Agreement...you heard it.

He hits rewind and plays it again.

MUTCHNIK

A jury's gonna love that.

ROBIN MANN

Congratulations.

MUTCHNIK

Christ, how about this guy Whitacre? What's his story?

SHEPARD

What do you mean?

MUTCHNIK

What's his agenda? The guy's making 350 grand a year, he's moving up the ladder and he turns informer. When does that happen? Is the money going up his nose? Some woman somewhere with a kid that he's seeing on one of these business trips? What's his story?

Shepard and Herndon are offended on behalf of Mark. Herndon reaches into his briefcase and pulls out a GREETING CARD.

HERNDON

I wanted everyone to see this. This is Mark Whitacre and his family.

The group passes it around. A photo of Whitacre Family smiling in front of their Christmas Tree.

HERNDON

I carry this picture with me all the time as a constant reminder that he is a real person with a real family depending on him. The only reason we have these tapes is because of this man.

(MORE)

HERNDON (cont'd)
We want to know that when the time comes, if he loses his job, the government is going to stand behind him.

ROBIN MANN
What's he looking for?

SHEPARD
About eighteen grand a month.

He hands her a folder of Whitacre's expenses.

96 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- NIGHT

96

Whitacre rides down the shoulder of the two lane, past the towers of the grain elevators-- to a railroad crossing and rumbling out of the darkness, comes another 100 box cars of what America needs for tomorrow and each one of those cars says: **ADM.**

WHITACRE (V.O.)
We took the kids one year to the Renaissance festival in Indiana...You get to be the White Knight...The kids get to ride in the joust against the forces of darkness with a helmet on. And the White Knight always wins, the forces of darkness fall onto an old mattress...It was maybe ninety degrees out and the heat and humidity index-- I can't even remember what the radio said.

97 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MASTER BEDROOM- NIGHT

97

Ginger lies alone in bed, eyes open, train whistles in the night. It's 4 a.m.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
We were next in line and the mare collapsed-- went down in a heap. Ginger was eating ye olde drumstick and she dropped it in the dirt. The kids were crying and I remember this farmer saying he had a gun in his truck...Just like that. From the White Knight to a gun in the truck..How do you get that back? How does that get to be fair?

98 EXTERIOR ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL- DECATUR

98

Whitacre pulls into the parking lot in a brand new PORSCHE 911. Shepard gets out of a black sedan and crosses the lot. He climbs into the shiny red car.

WHITACRE
(off the Porsche)
Hey, Brian, how do you like it?

Shepard takes in the car.

SHEPARD
It's a beauty. How was Hong Kong?

WHITACRE
Real good-- we're going to be
taking the lysine prices up again.

He hands Shepard an envelope.

SHEPARD
We're gonna wanna hear how the
company responds when we move in.

Shepard hands him some tapes and batteries. He grabs the BRIEF CASE off the backseat.

SHEPARD
You want me to load you up right
now?

WHITACRE
That's okay, Brian. It's kind of
packed with work anyway.

Whitacre stops Shepard from opening the case-- he takes the tapes and puts them in his lap.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)
I'll see you at the briefing.

Whitacre watches Shepard walk away then opens the briefcase.

ANGLE ON THE BRIEFCASE

It's filled with TENS OF THOUSANDS IN CASH.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Marty Allison, Sid Hulse, and the
other guys will understand--
they've worked with me.
(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
 They saw what I was trying to do
 for everyone...Those guys know
 me...They'd back me up all the way--
 family and friends are the most
 important thing. That's the
 lesson.

99 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MASTER BEDROOM- MORNING 99

Whitacre picks a tie to go with his TAPE RECORDER SUIT. He sees good things on the horizon. But, Ginger's got another point of view.

GINGER
 Mark, are you an idiot?

WHITACRE
 I'm gonna be the only one left.
 Dwayne will be gone. Mick will be
 gone. Terry will be gone. I'm
 going to be the only one who can
 run ADM.

GINGER
 That's totally illogical. How can
 you possibly stay there when you've
 just taken down the company? You
 think they're going to pat you on
 the back?

WHITACRE
 I'm next in line.

GINGER
 It's the FBI, right? They're
 brainwashing you. Brian Shepard
 put these ideas in your head to
 keep you working for him.

She storms out-- Whitacre checks his hair in the mirror.

WHITACRE
 I'm telling you, they're gonna make
 me president.

SHEPARD
 (pre-lap)
 How's your family doing?

100 INTERIOR HAMPTON INN- EVENING 100

Shepard, Herndon, Whitacre, Mann, Mutchnik and A HOST OF OTHER AGENTS prepare for the raid. The cheap hotel room has been transformed into a COMMAND CENTER.

There's a MAP OF DECATUR on the wall with push-pins at various locations and A CHART of which agent will contact which ADM executive.

WHITACRE

They're good. They'll be at an amusement park when you guys make your move.

ROBIN MANN

Whatever happens tomorrow, it may be in your best interest to get an attorney who represents your interests alone.

Whitacre is confused.

WHITACRE

You want me to go and hire an attorney now?

HERNDON

No, not now...

MUTCHNIK

The first thing that's going to happen is the company lawyers are going to come to all the executives with a list of attorneys for you to pick from. You gotta understand, these attorneys are being paid by ADM. They don't represent you. Do not take one of these attorneys, that's when you say to them that you have your own attorney.

SHEPARD

Tell them you've decided to cooperate with the government.

MUTCHNIK

It's perfectly reasonable for you to cooperate. It happens all the time.

WHITACRE

Well, I know a lawyer in Decatur...

SHEPARD

No, Mark. The town's too small.

MUTCHNIK

I'm sure you've met lawyers in your business dealings who can handle this.

WHITACRE

Oh, definitely.

He searches his mind for who that might be.

SHEPARD

Now, Mark once this thing starts
it's going to be intense.
They're going to know that somebody
was on the inside working with us.
They're going to do almost anything
to find out who it is.

WHITACRE

You guys still think everything
will work out okay for me at the
company? They'll take out the bad
guys, but I'll be okay?

101 INTERIOR DECATUR CLUB DINING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

101

Mauve covered tables patrolled by bow-tied wait staff. Wood
paneling, botanical drawings of the Illinois state flowers on
the wall, serrated steak knives on the table.

Whitacre and Wilson dine with a VISITING CLIENT, 35. They're
a couple of cocktails into the swagger of American Business.

TERRY WILSON

Come on Mark, you're making that
up.

WHITACRE

No, it's true. Archer, The "A" in
ADM, choked to death on a chicken
bone in 1947.

TERRY WILSON

There you have it from Mark
Whitacre, Ph.D. You know what the
Ph.D. is for? Piled Higher and
Deeper.

VISITING CLIENT

And let me guess, Daniels was
killed by a pig and the cows got
Midland?

Booze soaked laughter all around.

ANGLE ON HERNDON AND SHEPARD

At the hostess stand whispering-- the hostess drops her
menus.

TERRY WILSON
So, a chicken got Archer-- but
fifty years later when you look at
our deals with Tyson, Foster Farms--
what's the body count?

More laughter. The agents walk up to the table.

HERNDON
Excuse me. Mr. Wilson, Mr.
Whitacre-- I'm Bob Herndon and I'm
an FBI agent. This is Special
Agent Shepherd.

WHITACRE TERRY WILSON
Jesus, what is it? What's What's this about?

SHEPARD
Why don't we step over there.

Wilson is baffled. Whitacre feigns surprise-- they both look
to their client.

TERRY WILSON
I have no idea what this is.

Wilson gets up from the table. Whitacre is shaken.

TERRY WILSON (CONT'D)
Do I need an attorney.

WHITACRE
Attorney? Christ.

HERNDON
Mr. Whitacre, if I can ask you to
step outside with Agent Shepard and
Mr. Wilson, if you could have a
seat.

The men move away from the table leaving the Visiting Client
baffled and all alone-- a STUNNED WAITRESS approaches him.

STUNNED WAITRESS
Would you like to see the dessert
menu?

102 EXTERIOR DECATUR CLUB- EVENING

102

Shepard and Whitacre descend the steps of the club and head
for the FBI cruiser.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I saved a guy once at a restaurant in Hong Kong. He was choking on a bone and I got him to throw himself over the back of his chair. He sends me cards on holidays...Just to say thanks...tells me what his kids are studying. He remembers me.

103 INTERIOR DECATUR CLUB VESTIBULE- CONTINUOUS

103

Herndon and Wilson.

TERRY WILSON

You have a reason for embarrassing my colleague and I in front of a business prospect?

HERNDON

Mr. Wilson you're president over at Archer Daniels Midland Corporation, correct?

TERRY WILSON

I run the corn business.

HERNDON

This is a serious matter. It involves an international investigation into price fixing...

104 EXTERIOR DECATUR CLUB- SIMULTANEOUSLY

104

Shepard and Whitacre.

SHEPARD

Why don't we talk in the car.

105 INTERIOR DECATUR CLUB-CONTINUOUS

105

Herndon and Wilson.

HERNDON

We've seen you and your boss, Mick Andreas, conspire with your competitors to fix prices. We've seen you tell others to do it.

106 INTERIOR ARCHER, DANIELS HEADQUARTERS- NIGHT 106

FBI agents flash badges and warrants to a night security guard and fan out down the corridors-- entering offices, seizing documents.

HERNDON (V.O.)
There are going to be indictments.
Search warrants have been issued...

107 EXTERIOR NICE NEIGHBORHOOD DECATUR, ILLINOIS- NIGHT 107

FBI agents roll up the drive way and approach A MIDDLE AGED MAN watering his plants.

HERNDON (V.O.)
...and some people, people you know
and work with will be going to
jail.

The MIDDLE AGED MAN drops the hose and goes inside with the FBI agent. Pull back to reveal TWO OTHER HOUSES on the street have FBI CRUISERS parked in their driveways.

HERNDON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
We're giving you a chance...

108 INTERIOR DECATUR CLUB-CONTINUOUS 108

Wilson sits motionless cradling his High Ball. Out the window, Whitacre and Shepard are just shapes in the Dodge.

HERNDON
A chance to be able to look your
grandchildren in the eye someday
and tell them you did the right
thing...

WILSON'S POV

Wilson looks out the window and sees Whitacre in the FBI cruiser.

109 INTERIOR SHEPARD'S CAR- NIGHT 109

Whitacre and Shepard watch Herndon and Wilson in the foyer. Whitacre is in the middle of an adrenaline rush two-and-a-half years in the making.

WHITACRE

Look at that, look at Bob and Terry. Man, I'd love to be a fly on the wall for that one. I was good wasn't I? I seemed scared.

Shepard tries to calm him down, get him to focus.

SHEPARD

Remember what we told you, Mark: tell them that you're cooperating first thing and whatever you do, do not take one of their lawyers.

110

INTERIOR WHITACRE'S MERCEDES BENZ COUPE- NIGHT

110

Whitacre and Wilson. Whitacre is in a feigned panic.

WHITACRE

What did you say to your guy?

TERRY WILSON

Nothing. I told him nothing. Slow down.

WHITACRE

Me, too.

TERRY WILSON

He said he had tapes-- that he'd heard price fixing tapes...What the fuck is that? I can't believe they would pull this shit on Dwayne Andreas...

The car skids into a turn up a very long drive toward the kind of mansion that comes from price fixing.

WHITACRE

I bet they tapped the phones-- I always said that about them. I bet it's phone calls.

TERRY WILSON

Maybe, but what's that?

WHITACRE

You know, I get phone calls from time to time, Terry.

TERRY WILSON

I know, I know.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Terry never liked me...He's a dinosaur. A fossil. The Andreas' bully, is all he ever was. He was never going to run the place. Those guys never do, they just use them to find the land mines...

MICK ANDREAS, Mid 40's appears in the headlights-- shirt untucked, holding a drink.

111 EXTERIOR ANDREAS MANSION DRIVEWAY- CONTINUOUS 111

Gnats swarm around the yard lights-- crickets chirp out the temperature.

ANDREAS

We're going to the lawyers-- I don't want to use the phones.

WHITACRE

See, the phones.

ANDREAS

They hit everyone-- my Dad, Schmidt, Randall...

WILSON

Fuck me.

ANDREAS

They played me a tape-- of me-- some meeting with the fucking japs. I called the lawyers...They want us to go there.

TERRY WILSON

They played a fucking tape!

ANDREAS

I really don't think they've got that much and when you factor in everything we've ever done for them ...It'll be a ten year thing for the lawyers then there'll be some deal, maybe a fine...That's all it'll ever be.

Wilson and Andreas get in one car-- Whitacre gets in another.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Mick should've been more of a friend to me.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Taken me into his confidence more
just about different kinds of
things...I could've kept some of
the tapes out of it...The ones
about girls or whatever-- those are
gonna be tough to hear on the
nightly news...

112 INTERIOR FBI OFFICE, DECATUR- LATER

112

The small room is abuzz with agents reporting in. A
successful raid.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
...I could've turned the tape
recorder off and told Brian and Bob
I ran out of batteries...

SHEPARD
Do you think it went well?

HERNDON
I don't think I would change a
thing.

A phone rings somewhere-- an agent answers.

PHONE AGENT
I got Agent Temples for Attorney
Mutchnik.

Mutchnik-- sharing in the joy of the success takes the phone.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
They would've believed me. Brian
and Bob really trusted me...

113 EXTERIOR KIRK SCHMIDT'S HOUSE- NIGHT

113

AGENT TEMPLES sits in his car outside the house on his cell
phone.

AGENT TEMPLES
I just interviewed an ADM employee,
Kirk Schmidt...

MUTCHNIK (O.S.)
Yeah...

AGENT TEMPLES
Schmidt knew we were coming. He
said Whitacre told him about the
raid days ago.

114 INTERIOR FBI OFFICE, DECATUR- CONTINUOUS

114

Mutchnik hangs up the phone. One unhappy guy in the midst of a lot of law enforcement back-patting. He turns to Shepard and Herndon.

MUTCHNIK

Bob, Brian-- can I talk to you guys for a second...

115 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S MERCEDES BENZ SEDAN- LATER

115

Whitacre listens to the farm report on WSOY as he heads down Highway 36. He turns into the HOLIDAY INN and parks next to the tennis courts behind the hotel-- A LITER BOTTLE OF COKE rolls around in the wind.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

The metric system never panned out. We all had rulers with inches on one edge and centimeters on the other-- I pronounced it centimeters instead of centimeeters-- and nobody ever corrected me. They just let me walk around stupid so I'm not really upset we never crossed over, although it's helpful in Europe. The liter bottle is the only thing that ever caught on, because it's a nicer word--liter-- than quart.

A sedan pulls up next to him. Herndon and Shepard climb in.

WHITACRE

You guys were great. I mean you scared the hell out of Terry and you should've seen Mick and the lawyers.

SHEPARD

That's super, Mark.

WHITACRE

And the best part is, they think you gave me the once over.

HERNDON

Did you make a tape?

Whitacre again reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small tape recorder.

WHITACRE
Yeah, and it's good stuff. It's
real good.

He hands the agents the tape.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)
So, it's pretty much over now.

Whitacre nods-- a moment to savor, until...

SHEPARD
Mark, who did you tell?

WHITACRE
What? What do you mean?

SHEPARD
Who did you tell about the raid.

Shepard is furious, he glares at Whitacre.

WHITACRE
Hey, I had to tell my secretary. I
told her a long time ago. I just
said, "look I'm working with the
FBI on some things, I may be out of
touch for a while. That's all...

Shepard still glares.

WHITACRE
And, uh, I've probably mentioned
Kathy Dougherty, in my division.
She's a dear friend and a trusted
ally. I didn't want her to be
scared.

SHEPARD
Why did you do that, Mark? Why did
you tell Dougherty?

WHITACRE
Like I said, I didn't want her to
be scared. And I can trust her.
Guys, I can trust her.

Shepard glares in harder, his voice cracking.

SHEPARD
Who else?

WHITACRE

Mmm...Kirk Schmidt. I wanted to let him know it was okay to talk with you 'cuz he might not on account of he's loyal to me.

Shepard explodes.

SHEPARD

You could have ruined this entire operation. Two and a half years...

Herndon intervenes.

HERNDON

Time out. Mark, you know what you did was wrong in our eyes...

Whitacre starts to speak.

HERNDON

Don't...Don't. Look, we can get past this. But is there anything else we need to know? Anything?

A beat. Whitacre regains his composure.

WHITACRE

No, I can't think of anything, Bob.

116

INTERIOR ADM LOBBY- THE NEXT MORNING

116

Whitacre strolls through the lobby amazed at the mayhem he's created. Documents are being carted away by the arm load. Secretary's make frantic phone calls to lawyers.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Selenium deficiency in chicks causes reduced growth and pancreatic atrophy and increased mortality. But, does anyone here know that? It's in my Ph. D. Thesis...You can solve it with vitamin E. Mick and Terry...most of the people-- they don't even have Ph. D.'s. They wouldn't have the slightest idea about what selenium deficiency can do to a chick. But, I know it, I did the research.

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

A small smile of accomplishment.

Whitacre sits in his office. From his POV he can see the GREAT AND POWERFUL DWAYNE ANDREAS, 70, Mick and Terry cross the chaotic trading area toward his office-- with them are two STARCHED AND SUITED OLDER MEN who can only be a LAWYERS-- AUBREY DANIEL and JOHN DOWD.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Dwayne Andreas, hey, how ya doin'?
Sorry about the FBI arresting your
son and investigating your
company...Maybe you all should've
listened to me.

The smile vanishes. Is he found out?

DWAYNE ANDREAS

Mark Whitacre, this is Aubrey
Daniel.

AUBREY DANIEL

Pleasure meeting you. I'm
representing ADM in this matter.
And this is a colleague of mine
John Dowd. Dwayne's told me about
your responsibilities here...

They shake hands.

DWAYNE ANDREAS

Aubrey defended Lt. Calley after
the My Lai massacre in Viet
Nam...So this ought to be a cake
walk for him.

AUBREY DANIEL

We thought you might take some time
and talk to John here.

MICK ANDREAS

ADM's going to stand behind you on
this, Mark. Dad and I want the key
people to know we'll be paying
their legal fees.

WHITACRE

Great, that's great.

DWAYNE ANDREAS

Then we'll let you fellas get
acquainted.

Everyone leaves except for Dowd and Whitacre. Dowd gives
Whitacre a warm, knowing look.

JOHN DOWD

How you holding up, Mark?

WHITACRE

Uh, can I ask you something?

JOHN DOWD

Sure. Anything.

WHITACRE

If I tell you something are you
allowed to say anything to Mick or
Dwayne?

ANGLE ON WHITACRE'S OFFICE

From the trading floor. Dowd gets up and pulls the curtains
shut. Through a crack in the drapes we see Whitacre and Dowd
talk.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

It feels good to talk, to clear the
air-- you get to be like a balloon
after a while. A balloon looking
for a pin to bump into and relieve
the pressure. You could get sick
from keeping it inside and get a
tumor or something..I didn't ask
for that. Why should I pay for my
own legal fees when I'm not the one
who started the price fixing.

117 INTERIOR FBI OFFICE DECATUR- EVENING

117

Herndon and Shepard stand over a similar sea of documents--
exhausted.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

People get their live's earnings
wiped out by these legal
entanglements...I'm gonna pay for
that? That's not right, I have kids
and Ginger and horses...

118 EXTERIOR ADM- LATER

118

Twilight. From the parking lot you can see two men still
talking in the fluorescent light of Whitacre's office.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I have a friend from school who has a law practice and he's always telling me how they can't talk about their cases...Like in The Firm...You can tell them anything and they have to keep to themselves or they get in a lot of trouble...They're boxed. That's what they say, "boxed."

119 INTERIOR ADM TRADING FLOOR- LATER

119

A GROUP OF LAWYERS sit among boxes of pizza and beer. The drapes finally open in Whitacre's office. Dowd and Whitacre emerge. Dowd looks stunned, Whitacre solemn. Wilson, Daniel, Mick and the other lawyers stop what their doing and look up.

WHITACRE

I need to tell you that I'm cooperating with the government. The FBI has hundreds of tapes. They know all about lysine. John here agrees I should be getting another lawyer.

JOHN DOWD

No question about it.

Dowd and Daniel share a knowing look. An uncomfortable silence follows.

WHITACRE

I'm sorry for what's happened.

ANDREAS

Sorry? What's that?

Whitacre shakes Mick Andreas' hand and walks away. The men are all stunned, they watch him leave.

AUBREY DANIEL

John, I bet that SOB was wearing a wire on you tonight, too.

120 INTERIOR ADM- THE NEXT MORNING

120

Whitacre crosses the room; the object of cold stares and hard silence.

WHITACRE

Hey...Good morning.

To nobody in particular and nobody responds. He enters his office and closes the drapes.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

(nervous)

There are perfectly good ties on sale and nobody is buying them. Paisleys and yellow and red Rep ones with little crests and what have you. Two for one. You just have to take the time and look, there are plenty of good ones...

But, when he looks up AUBREY DANIEL is standing there-- all arrogance and anger concentrated into a very intense beam of language.

AUBREY DANIEL

Mark, we'd like you off the premises.

WHITACRE

Uh, Mr. Daniel, can't we...

AUBREY DANIEL

Management wants you out...

WHITACRE

But, I'm a VP here...

And with that MARK CHEVIRON picks up his briefcase and car keys.

CHEVIRON

Let's go.

ANGLE ON BRIAN SHEPARD AND HIS ADOPTED SON

Seen through the front window of a car baring down on them as they work on an OLD FORD MUSTANG MACH ONE. Shepard reacts to the camera-- he can't believe what he sees.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

(bitter little boy rant)

How would Brian Shepard like it if he was thrown out of his job? If he was humiliated in front of his secretary? If he even had a secretary. Not very much I'm willing to wager.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
It's like, "Hey, Mark we'll lead
the parade in these bright red
suits while you walk behind the
elephants with a shovel and some
rubber gloves in case it gets
messy...."

121 EXTERIOR BRIAN SHEPARD'S HOME- DAY

121

A modest Midwestern home on a tree lined street. Whitacre
brings his TOWN CAR to a screeching halt in front of Shepard.

SHEPARD
Mark, you can't be here.

WHITACRE
They threw me out, Brian.

SHEPARD
You're jeopardizing everything.

WHITACRE
Tossed me out of ADM. I'm out.

Shepard backs away from Whitacre like he's a leper.

SHEPARD
Not here, Mark-- on the phone we
can set something up.

WHITACRE
You gotta help me.

Whitacre looks around-- all the houses have eyes. A LITTLE
NEIGHBOR BOY has stopped playing catch with his MOTHER and
both are now staring at Whitacre and Shepard-- as are a group
of CITY WORKERS fixing a telephone wire.

SHEPARD
If you need to talk, call me.

Whitacre gets back in his car. Shepard watches him drive
away-- over his shoulder we hear the phone ringing.

Whitacre parks at the far end of the street.

122 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S TOWN CAR- CONTINUOUS

122

Whitacre is freaked out.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Mark, you can't show up at my
house. How can you know me if this
is a secret investigation?

WHITACRE
They know. They know it's me, my
lawyer told them.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
What? What lawyer?

WHITACRE
I fired him right away, but he told
Mick and Dwayne.

123 INTERIOR SHEPARD'S HOUSE- CONTINUOUS 123

Shepard paces the kitchen, staring out the window at Whitacre
who is parked down the street.

SHEPARD
A lawyer can't do that, Mark.

WHITACRE (O.S.)
I thought that, I did. Mick and
Dwayne introduced me to this guy
and I told him...

SHEPARD
Who introduced you?

WHITACRE (O.S.)
Mick and Dwayne said they were
going to take care of me.

Shepard can't believe Whitacre gave himself away.

SHEPARD
Mark, we told you not to talk to an
ADM lawyer. We went over that more
than once. I think we made it very
clear.

124 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S PARKED CAR- CONTINUOUS 124

WHITACRE
I know, I know I do. I just don't
know one. No ideas.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Let me make a call.

WHITACRE
You're not mad at me for coming
over are you, Bri?

125

INTERIOR LAW OFFICES OF EPSTEIN, ZAIDEMAN- DAY

125

JIM EPSTEIN, 43, and BOB ZAIDEMAN, 50, sit with Mark Whitacre in their offices in the Loop. Whitacre recounts his life as a mole in a rambling fashion-- leaping tangent to tangent.

EPSTEIN

So, there wasn't a saboteur in the beginning at all? You made that up?

WHITACRE

Maybe there was, there could've been-- ADM steals technology from the Japanese-- so I wouldn't put it past the Japanese to do the same thing. But after I told them that I made it up the FBI said I didn't have much of a choice.

EPSTEIN

And you began making tapes...How many tapes did you make?

Whitacre again displays his gift to move his lips and mind in different directions. The interior monologue takes precedence-- the on-camera story we've heard before.

WHITACRE

There are over 200 tapes. I carried a tape recorder almost everyday to work once I signed a cooperating witness agreement, and then they gave me a special brief case that I took to meetings that had a hidden recorder in it-- they even sewed a small one they just developed into my suit and I'd ride around on the plane and tape Mick and the guys talking about price fixing or stealing technology and illegal campaign contributions, just whatever we'd talk about. We made over a hundred tapes-- and Brian and Bob and I would get together a couple times a week and work on the investigation until we briefed the lawyers at the Department of Justice and they raided the place.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

There are so many really nice people in the world. People who want to help out. Good neighbors. Good listeners. Like when they have these floods out on the Mississippi and people lose everything and are sleeping in a school gym, someone always shows up with a warm coat for the old people and a home made pot roast. That's why Ginger and I bought that girl in town a special computer after she had the spine injury. That kind of thing really makes a difference. Jim here strikes me as that kind of guy, you can tell he's the one-in-a-hundred guy who when you come into the emergency room, you thank your lucky stars that it's his watch.

Epstein can't believe it.

EPSTEIN

For how long did you do this? Work as an informant?

WHITACRE

Uh, two and a half years. I was a VP and a cooperating witness.

A moment of reflection and then...

WHITACRE

I've always thought when this was over there'd still be a place for me at ADM. I still got a lot of friends there.

The lawyers look at each other.

EPSTEIN

Mark, it's very important to your case that you not discuss it with anyone else. These people you work with, your friends, they could end up being witnesses. So Bob and I are the only people I want you to talk to about this from now on and I want you to know you can tell us anything.

WHITACRE

Hey, thanks for taking the time. I really appreciate it. I feel a whole lot better.

Whitacre leaves. Epstein and Zaideman try and absorb what they've just heard.

Then they burst into hysterical laughter.

126

EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- DAY

126

As seen from across the street. A stranger-- SCOTT KILMAN-- is standing on the steps.

GINGER

He's out of town.

KILMAN

My name is Scott Kilman and I'm a reporter from the Wall Street Journal...

Kilman gives her a business card.

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

Hiding in the corn. He inspects an ear.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Any kind of corn will pop-- but not every kind turns itself inside out and gets white and fluffy...

KILMAN

I know this is a difficult time for your family. But, I've seen how these things go before-- these companies really go after the whistle blowers.

Kilman lays out what he knows for Ginger. She listens briefly and then walks Kilman back to his car.

KILMAN (CONT'D)

They've got a whole PR department putting out their side. It's just the nature of the beast. If he wants his side coming out he's gonna have to do it.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

There's a starch-protein matrix. Certain ratios prove advantageous...How do you explain that? Who would really take the time to listen when the other guys have an agenda. When they can get Ronald Reagan on the phone because they're building a statue of him...

GINGER

Uh, well I don't really know about all that-- like I said, Mark's away just now...But, I'll let him know you stopped by.

Ginger watches Kilman drive away and then turns and walks toward the stables.

GINGER

Mark? He left. You can come back.

Whitacre emerges from among the tall stalks of corn where he's been watching.

127 INTERIOR BLUE BIRD DINER- EARLY MORNING

127

Whitacre is strung out on martyrdom and insomnia. He stares at his coffee.

LIZ TAYLOR

They turned the place upside down.

His loyal secretary gives him a pile of mail.

LIZ TAYLOR
They went through all of this, too.

WHITACRE
I'm sorry you got dragged into this.

LIZ TAYLOR
And then they started asking me for the access code to your voice mail.

Whitacre panics.

WHITACRE
Did you tell them? I don't think you have to tell them that.

LIZ TAYLOR
Well, according to them I do-- but I didn't. And about two hours later Peterson told me to clean out my desk. He said I've been transferred out of Bioproducts.

WHITACRE
But, you didn't tell them?

128 EXTERIOR ADM PLANT- DAY

128

Whitacre is parked in his MERCEDES across the road staring through the chain link fence. Trucks rumble by.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Abe Lincoln was born 45 minutes from here and I've never been to his log cabin. I've seen post cards and I sent the kids there on a field trip. But, I've never gone. I'm sure it's very well preserved. Original beds and dining room tables and the doorways are probably smaller from when people were shorter...It's only 45 minutes away...

CU on Whitacre as a sound builds in the car...A small outboard motor we've heard before. Getting LOUDER...And then a voice competes.

COMPETING VOICE (PRE-LAP)
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU FOR DAYS...

129 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- DAY 129

Whitacre stands with the leaf blower-- but the driveway is spotless. He shuts it off. Behind him is SCOTT KILMAN.

KILMAN
I'd like to talk to you about
what's been going on at ADM.

A beat. He hands Whitacre a card.

KILMAN
I'm interested in hearing your side
of things.

Whitacre takes a paranoid look around.

WHITACRE
We better go inside. We can't talk
out here.

130 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MORNING 130

Whitacre makes himself a bowl of cereal and talks on the phone. He's fully caffeinated and ready to go.

WHITACRE
They kept coming back Brian, and
they only had ADM's side of things.

SHEPARD (O.S.)
Did you talk to them, Mark?
What did you say? It's real
important that you not talk to the
press.

WHITACRE
Me? I told him I had no comment.
But, they already had the story.

A beat. On the counter is a NEWSPAPER. Whitacre hangs up the phone.

ANGLE ON WSJ

Headline: SEEDS OF DOUBT: AN EXECUTIVE BECOMES INFORMANT FOR
THE FBI, STUNNING GIANT ADM.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
I don't owe Brian Shepard the
truth.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
I mean, I gave Brian Shepard two
and a half years of my life and now
I have legal bills to show for
it...And I'm the good guy in all
this-- the guy who took on ADM...

131 INTERIOR CTA COMMUTER TRAIN- MORNING 131

Jim Epstein reads the Journal. Pull back to reveal it's in
the hands of almost EVERY OTHER EXECUTIVE on the train.

EPSTEIN
Shit.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
...Is Brian Shepard gonna lose his
job for that? His standard of
living? I've gone to the local
junior high school on career day
and talked to kids about
biochemistry and the kind of career
opportunities available...

132 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION KITCHEN- CONTINUOUS 132

Whitacre's son, Alexander, runs, screaming into the kitchen.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Can Brian Shepard and Bob Herndon
say that, I'm the white hat...

ALEXANDER
Dad, Dad, you're on TV!

Whitacre turns on the TV. A strange light blows out the
windows of the kitchen. On the TV screen appears the image
of: WHITACRE'S HOUSE.

TV ANNCR:
A Vice President in the Bio-
products division of Fortune Five
Hundred ADM, Whitacre was working
as a spy for the FBI for over two
years...

WHITACRE (V.O.)
I did enough for Brain Shepard.
Who's gonna take care of me?

WHITACRE
Baby, you gotta come see this we're
on TV.

133 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MORNING

133

A crowd of reporters and ENG CREWS have sprouted up among the corn fields. They press in on the gates. America has questions for Mark Whitacre.

The door opens and Whitacre emerges. Expecting rock star exaltation-- he gets something else.

REPORTER

Any comment on the effect your actions have had on the decline in ADM's stock prices?

Whitacre cringes.

REPORTER 2

What has been the reaction of your friends and co-workers to having been taped without their knowledge?

Whitacre picks up speed toward the garage.

REPORTER 3

Do you believe you and your family can safely stay in Decatur, or has the government made arrangements to move you?

Whitacre cowers in the garage.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Who picks the kids up for swimming lessons...Who has a plaque in the high school for the Mark Whitacre Environmental Award...Where are your friends when it's dump on Mark Whitacre, where's the pot roast and the warm coat?

134 INTERIOR WHITACRE LIVING ROOM- DAY

134

Ginger with Shepard and Herndon.

GINGER

We're still getting the threatening phone calls and I know for a fact that Dwayne and Terry have been telling people he wasn't a good worker. That he can't be trusted.

SHEPARD

We told Mark that he had to expect the unexpected-- that he might be attacked-- that he wasn't going to win any popularity contests for this.

GINGER

He just mopes around here watching the news looking for a glimpse of himself. Or, he calls someone from ADM looking for the latest gossip.

135 EXTERIOR ROADSIDE MOTEL BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS- DAY 135

Whitacre gets out of the car with a brief case and heads into the hotel.

136 INTERIOR WHITACRE LIVING ROOM- CONTINUOUS 136

SHEPARD

Maybe you guys should get out of town until the hearings start.

HERNDON

He's got to stop talking to people that can really come back to bite him...

GINGER

He's very proud, you know...

137 INTERIOR ROADSIDE MOTEL ROOM- DAY 137

Whitacre fixes his hair and smiles. A CAMERA FLASHES.

GINGER (V.O.)

...I just feel that after everything he's done he should be taken better care of...

138 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION-CONTINUOUS 138

HERNDON

Where is he now?

Beat.

GINGER

He said he was going to see you.

139 INTERIOR HOTEL ROOM- CONTINUOUS

139

A camera flash punctuates his words as Whitacre's story pours itself into RONALD HENKOFF'S, 38, tape recorder.

WHITACRE

They had warned me that I would need an attorney and told me not to get one tied to ADM, but they didn't stress it...I spent from six to ten that night talking to John Dowd the attorney from ADM. Dowd promised me he wouldn't tell anyone my role. But, the next day someone at ADM called me and said, "Hey, Dwayne told me you're the mole. You're the one who caused all this..."

HENKOFF

And then what happened?

Whitacre's story comes out-- in both directions.

WHITACRE

It's been pure hell ever since. I really believed I was doing a good deed. I still think that. I won't ever regret that part. I still think I did a good thing...Just a few weeks ago I was potentially the next president of the company. I have that on tape, and now it's pure character assassination. Here's what's being said about me at ADM: that I wasn't a good manager, that I wasn't good with people. That the feds caught me at price-fixing.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

A lot of people didn't believe I'd ever go to an Ivy league school-- but I did. They didn't believe I'd get a Ph. D.-- but I did that, too. Maybe Cornell isn't Harvard, but they play each other in sports. When I was twenty-eight I wanted to be making twice my age-- and I did. Then the goal was three times my age by the time I was 30...I'm 38 and I'm making well over ten times my age, and I'll be on the cover of Fortune Magazine for cleaning up one of the biggest companies in America...And I was just an average student in high school.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

I never dreamed of being a whistle blower. And I would tell other people in this kind of situation to take a stand. Try to solve the problem internally. Go to the top.

(MORE)

WHITACRE (CONT'D)
If that doesn't work go to the
authorities....

140 INTERIOR ADM BOOKEEPING DEPT 140

SCOTT ROBERTS, an ADM attorney, thumbs through records. He's
examining a file entitled: ABP INTERNATIONAL.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
The bottom line is that I know my
story will eventually be confirmed
by the FBI. There's no reason for
me to put out a story they're not
going to confirm...It would be
crazy.

ANGLE ON THE PAPERWORK

Contracts citing various sums of money and photo-copies of
checks.

ROBERTS HOLDS TWO PAGES UP TO THE LIGHT. AND THEN RUNS DOWN
THE HALL WITH THE PAGES.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
It's all on tape, everything that
happened.

141 INTERIOR ADM- MICK ANDREAS OFFICE- EVENING 141

Mick, Dwayne, Roberts and Aubrey Daniel stand before the
window. The pages are taped to the window.

ANGLE ON THE PAGES

The two signatures eclipse each other perfectly.

ROBERTS
You can see where he pasted it.

Aubrey Daniel picks up the phone barely able to contain his
glee.

142 INTERIOR WHITACRE'S CAR- SIMULTANEOUSLY 142

Whitacre races the Ferrari down a two-lane in the middle of
the farm fields of South Central Illinois. The phone rings
and he answers cheerfully.

WHITACRE
Mark Whitacre.

AUBREY DANIEL (O.S.)
Hello, Mark? It's Aubrey Daniel.
I think you forgot something?

Whitacre pulls over onto the shoulder. He looks at the cell phone in dismay and stares at a Polaroid of himself from the Fortune Magazine photo shoot-- he's smiling in the picture.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
One of the things I've learned in business is that you should always use a person's name in conversation if you want them to feel important...Sid Hulse and Marty Allison think that and they're very successful salesman...

143 EXTERIOR CHINESE RESTAURANT, TAYLORVILLE- DAY 143

Whitacre gets out of an FBI cruiser with Herndon and Shepard and the three men walk toward the restaurant in rural Illinois.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
It makes people feel like they're definitely being told something they can use...

They enter and the HOSTESS gives them a table up front.

WHITACRE
You got anything open in the back?

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Just by putting their name in there at the beginning or the end.

The men sit at a table in the back.

A beat.

WHITACRE
Brian, Bob, my attorney's telling me not to say anything, but there's something I've wanted to talk about for awhile.

HERNDON
Don't tell us anything. You have an attorney now. This isn't like before. Let's just talk.

Shepard tries to change the subject.

SHEPARD

You been playing any golf?

Whitacre doesn't want to "just talk."

WHITACRE

They want to talk to me at ADM.

HERNDON

Mark, you understand your lawyer has advised you not to discuss this matter?

SHEPARD

We're not asking you.

WHITACRE

Let me throw out some "hypotheticals." I'll talk about some financial situations and you tell me if they're wrong or how serious they might be, OK? For instance, suppose a company gave an executive a car, you know, a corporate car. But instead of driving it to work he drove his personal car and gave the company car to his daughter. Would that be a problem?

HERNDON

That's it? That's the hypothetical?

The agents try not to laugh. After what Whitacre has given the government-- a little undeclared perk is nothing.

SHEPARD

That shouldn't be a problem.

WHITACRE

What about if an executive used a corporate plane for personal use?

HERNDON

Basically, it's the same thing.

SHEPARD

There may be some IRS issues but...

WHITACRE

What if, hypothetically, the activity involved kickbacks by corporate executives?

HERNDON
There are plenty of ways companies
try and attract business. Dinners
for clients, tickets for sporting
events...

SHEPARD
It's not ethical but it's done.

A beat. Then Whitacre goes on.

WHITACRE
Uh, is this conversation on or off
the record?

SHEPARD
On. Definitely.

Whitacre exhales.

WHITACRE
What if the company regularly
accepted kickbacks to executives in
the form of cash?

Shepard drops his fork. Hold on Shepard.

SHEPARD
How much money are we talking about
Mark?

Whitacre pauses, clears his throat.

WHITACRE
Five hundred thousand.

HERNDON
How much???

Whitacre shrinks from the admission like a puppy who just
crapped on the rug.

WHITACRE
It's how things were done there.

SHEPARD
When did this start, Mark?

WHITACRE
December of 1991.

Shepard can't believe it.

SHEPARD
You, You...And how were you paid?

WHITACRE

By check. They we're deposited in various accounts. And always under 10,000 dollars.

SHEPARD

And did any of these checks come in after we met?

Whitacre pauses.

WHITACRE

Maybe a couple.

The agents try and control their anger.

SHEPARD

Who else knows about this?

WHITACRE

Nobody.

Herndon loses it.

HERNDON

Come on, Mark-- you just said it's how things were done at ADM. Now, is there anything else you're involved in? Anything else you need to tell us?

WHITACRE

Just what I told you.

HERNDON

I'm asking you one more time.

WHITACRE

The 500 and that's it. Definitely.

Whitacre nods. He asks hopefully...

WHITACRE

This isn't going to affect the price-fixing case, is it?

The three men get up to leave.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I feel good about that. Hey, I don't see what the big deal is. They said help us with the price fixing and I did-- the two things are totally unrelated...

144 EXTERIOR DEPT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC- DAY 144

Aubrey Daniel and a PHALANX OF A LAWYERS ascend the steps of DOJ.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Besides, Mick knew about it,
definitely...He's the one who
taught me to do it in the first
place.

145 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON DC- DAY 145

Aubrey Daniel and a cadre of CORPORATE ATTORNEYS sit at a conference table with Mann, Mutchnik and U.S. ASST. ATTORNEY GENERAL GARY SPRATLING. An overhead projector displays the forged contracts on the wall.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
When you look at what went on with
all the price fixing they did or
the Federal Building being bombed
in Oklahoma City, why are we
focusing on me getting a half-
million in kick-backs along with
everyone else?

AUBREY DANIEL
Two point five million dollars.
Deposited in a bank in Switzerland
while Mark Whitacre was on ADM
business. We have sworn testimony
from Mr. Lennart Thorstensson of
the ABP Corporation that he's never
seen this contract before and that
his signature has been forged. He
and his company never received this
check...

As Daniel speaks one of the younger lawyers passes out a folder of affidavits and other documents supporting his claims.

AUBREY DANIEL
It is clear to us that Mark
Whitacre, driven by his own
boundless ambition to take over
ADM, has attempted to frame his
superiors in a price fixing
conspiracy of his own invention so
that he could seize control of the
company...

Mann and Mutchnik can't believe what they're seeing in the black folders.

AUBREY DANIEL

His cooperation with the government is merely a smokescreen for his lying and stealing. We have additional information that we are prepared to share with Attorney General Reno that the money has been moved to an account in Grand Cayman with the full knowledge and complicity of Whitacre's FBI partners...

And under...

The DOJ lawyers stare at the table-- searching for the rest of their careers.

WHITACRE (PRE-LAP)

The moon and the sun are up at the same time...

146 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MORNING

146

Whitacre is out with the leaf blower-- the driveway is spotless. The MOON is up during the day.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I wonder if there's a name for that. We don't have very many moons compared to other planets. What does Jupiter have? Eleven. They aren't scientists-- Mick and Dwayne-- they don't have Ph. D.'s, but I'm the one having to pull my kids out of school for doing the right thing...

147 INTERIOR FBI SPRINGFIELD- DAY

147

Shepard and Herndon appear before their bosses-- Paisley and Medford. Shepard is irate, Herndon is a little more circumspect.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

They need to dig deep, then they'll find out how high it goes-- it's there they just need to look and they'll see...

SHEPARD

What are they accusing me of?
I want the specifics? Are they
saying I'm in cahoots with the guy?

Medford and Paisley don't want to answer this.

MEDFORD

Paragraph eight in our agreement
with Whitacre states that his
actions are directly attributable
to the FBI and the US...

SHEPARD

But, how could we know what he was
doing? He came to us...

PAISLEY

The question they're asking isn't
'how could we know?' It's 'why
didn't we know?'

HERNDON

The question is 'were they fixing
prices?'

Medford and Paisley share a look.

MEDFORD

The investigation has shifted from
ADM to Whitacre.

SHEPARD

Of course, ADM decides Whitacre's a
thief as soon as they find out he's
working for us.

HERNDON

Who's counting the money over there
if they can just lose 2.5 Million
dollars for a few years and then
find it in a few hours?

SHEPARD

We gotta call Mark.

PAISLEY

I don't want you doing that.

Shepard and Herndon are confused.

MEDFORD

We're taking you off.

SHEPARD

That's it. We're done? I thought the FBI never hung a witness out to dry.

MEDFORD

He's not a witness anymore-- he's a target.

148 INTERIOR LAW OFFICES OF EPSTEIN, ZAIDEMAN- DAY

148

A Sunday afternoon. Epstein and Zaideman try and get a hand on the scope of Whitacre's fraud. Whitacre has shoe boxes of receipts and bank statements.

WHITACRE

I only kept a million and a half-- and Mick knew about it, he knew these things went on. They taught me how to do it.

Zaideman and Epstein shake their heads.

EPSTEIN

You can't bullshit these people tomorrow. Who knows what they know? If we're going in there we got to go in with the whole story. Because the way it gets bad for you is if you tell them you're confessing and you don't. Then you are sorely screwed.

Whitacre looks at his shoe box. He nods.

WHITACRE

This is everything Jim, what I'm telling you here. I looked everywhere for the bank statements and the records. This is every penny-- I'm not gonna hide anything from you guys.

149 EXTERIOR DEPT. OF JUSTICE- CHICAGO

149

Whitacre enters the building with Epstein and Zaideman.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I was never really that good at chemistry in high school. So I kept taking it-- just to get good and wound up with so many chemistry credits I ended up going into Bio-Chem.

150 INTERIOR DEPT. OF JUSTICE ELEVATOR- CHICAGO 150

Whitacre, Epstein and Zaideman- on the way into battle.
Whitacre is strangely placid.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

That's really the truth about that--
I wanted to be a veterinarian when
I was kid-- I raised chickens and
rabbits...Biochem was my advisor's
idea...

WHITACRE

Listen, I haven't been telling you
the whole truth. I'll clear it up
in there today.

ZAIDEMAN

What?

OH, SHIT. Epstein starts desperately hitting elevator buttons
to stop the approaching doom.

EPSTEIN

We got to get you out of here.

But, it's too late the doors open. Whitacre steps out.

WHITACRE

No. I want to tell them.

Hold on Epstein.

151 INTERIOR DEPT. OF JUSTICE CONFERENCE ROOM- CHICAGO 151

Whitacre surrounded by Epstein and Zaideman who can only
imagine which way their loose cannon will roll. Across from
the DOJ lawyers as far as the eye can see.

ROBIN MANN

Mr. Whitacre's conduct constitutes
a breach of his agreement with the
US government. He is no longer a
cooperating witness.

EPSTEIN

My client has given you years of
his life, clearly he made mistakes,
but he made your case.

ROBIN MANN

We're not here to discuss the case
against ADM.

ED HERBST, early 50's, and MARY SPEARING, 40's, take over-- they take no prisoners.

HERBST

Mr. Whitacre, my name is Ed Herbst and I'm with the FBI Economic Crimes Unit. I'd like you to tell me when your criminal conduct at ADM began.

WHITACRE

In early 1992. I learned how things were done there from Mick Andreas. He's the one who taught me how to use embezzlement and kickbacks to make money tax free.

Epstein tries to do some damage control.

EPSTEIN

My client is...

WHITACRE

I know the frauds I committed are wrong, and I accept responsibility for them.

HERBST

How did you receive the money?

WHITACRE

Primarily by check. I deposited them in my bank account in Decatur.

This seems unlikely. Spearing gets angry--

MARY SPEARING

They paid kickbacks in checks? What company would pay kickbacks in checks? Come on...

No one from the government has ever been aggressive toward Whitacre before-- he's thrown.

WHITACRE

I don't really remember the exact name...something like AgriConsulting and Trading, something like that...

MARY SPEARING

You don't remember the name of the company that paid you checks?

WHITACRE
I...I've got a lot going on in my
life. It's hard to remember.

EPSTEIN
Hey, we're coming to you guys.
We're cooperating here and we're
going to get the money back.

Epstein looks at Whitacre-- this last part might be hard.

HERBST
This might help your memory.

He slides the forged ABP documents toward Whitacre.

WHITACRE
Where did you get that?

HERBST
These are ADM records showing the
forging of signatures.

Whitacre smiles and shakes his head. He sees the conspiracy plainly.

WHITACRE
See, that's how they keep
people in the fold-- they
tell you to take the money
and then they use it against
you if you talk. It's how
they control us. You gotta
realize who these people
are...

WHITACRE (V.O.)
Didn't these people see The
Firm-- or read the book.
It's all there. Everything
they did to me they did to
Tom Cruise...I'm not the one
they should be mad at...

MARY SPEARING
Is there anything else you have a
hard time remembering?

Whitacre looks at Epstein. Epstein shakes his head "no" but
Whitacre has other plans.

WHITACRE
Umm...I have a few other things to
tell you about.

Epstein sighs.

WHITACRE
There were some things I did in
Mexico...

PULL BACK FROM CONFERENCE ROOM

As Whitacre spills his guts the lawyers look on in bewilderment...The man is unhinged.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I raised white mice, too. Chickens and goats and white mice in little cages. They couldn't come in the house. I took care of them-- that was my job outside. One got in one time, I don't know how, and he was found dead by my Mother. This had nothing to do with anything I had done-- he just had died and it was up to me to bring him back to life. I wanted to do the right thing and wear the white hat and that's why I tried to make it all right so he wouldn't have to be dead. All the things I did were for that-- but I couldn't.

152 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION LIVING ROOM- NIGHT 152

Shepard, Herndon, Ginger and Whitacre. Mark looks used up-- his hair seems to be graying around the edges. In front of him are a pile of newspapers-- Washington Post, WSJ, Chicago Tribune, etc. Each with a banner announcement of his sins.

HERNDON

We can't see you anymore and if you call us and start to talk about it, we'll have to hang up...

SHEPARD

You can talk to us about your feelings, but that's it.

Shepard puts his coffee cup down near the newspapers.

ANGLE ON WSJ

7/13/95 Headline reads: **YOU DIRTY RAT, SAYS DECATUR ILLINOIS-PEOPLE THINK MARK WHITACRE BETRAYED THEM AND ASK WHY HE TURNED TO THE FBI.**

Whitacre nods-- he can't play with his friends any more.

SHEPARD

Mark, please understand. This isn't what we want. We've got no choice here.

WHITACRE

I'll tell you what, my frustration and anger is all coming from my work with you guys. I mean, this stuff in the papers, my kids read that. It's all, "Dump on Mark Whitacre." It's not right. I'm harassed by the media and Mick and Terry are still going to work in the morning.

SHEPARD

Remember, Mark, we told you it was impossible to predict what would happen when the case went overt.

HERNDON

And you never told us about the **Five Million** Dollars you took...

Ginger has heard this before and can't hear it again.

GINGER

He worked for you for two and a half years, he risked his career, his home...And now you turn your back on him and leave us out here.

WHITACRE

Ginger...

But the damn has burst. She sobs.

SHEPARD

The reason we came today is because we are concerned about your and Mark's well being.

HERNDON

It's important that you tell the people in Washington everything tomorrow-- one hundred per cent.

Whitacre nods. Ginger seethes.

GINGER

You'd have nothing without him and you know it. He's just been used by the government and then thrown away cuz' it's a lot easier to go after Mark Whitacre than anyone named Andreas.

Whitacre stares at the newspapers.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I think a lot of people would come--
a lot of friends...and people would
be surprised by just how many there
are. Even folks from ADM...The news
media would be there for sure...

153 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- MASTER BEDROOM- DAWN 153

Whitacre is sitting on the bed up and dressed when the alarm goes off. He lies across his wife on the bed-- more like a child than a husband.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

...Everything would come out.
Brian and Bob would come and I bet
one of them would say something
about me. Rheinhard would come up
from Mexico. Sid or Marty would
tell people what kind of boss I was
and how I always brought back
presents...

WHITACRE

You'll be OK here with your mom?

Ginger nods groggily. Whitacre leaves the room-- grabbing a
PICTURE OF HIS FAMILY from a bedside table.

154 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION GARAGE- MORNING 154

Whitacre opens the garage door and we see the entire fleet of cars he has amassed-- **5 Million dollars** buys a lot of steering wheels. Ferrari, Range Rover, Jeep, etc. Whitacre selects the BMW convertible. He gets in the car and puts his brief case in the seat next to him. He opens it and we see the contents: HUNDREDS OF ARTICLES ABOUT WHITACRE. A scrapbook from a roller coaster ride. He starts the car and guns the engine.

ANGLE ON THE GARAGE

The Beemer does not back up-- THE GARAGE DOOR COMES DOWN.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Jesus died on a cross to save
others from their sins. Jesus was
a hero. I know selfish suicide is
forbidden in the bible.

155 MONTAGE- THE PEOPLE WAITING FOR WHITACRE ARE TOLD HE'S NOT COMING... 155

DEPT. OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON, DC- DAY

A group of lawyers sit at a table...A note is passed to ROBIN MANN. She reads it...

ROBIN MANN
Mr. Whitacre will not be appearing
today...

O'HARE AIRPORT- DAY

Agent D'Angelo gets a call on his cell phone at a departure gate. He turns to his partner, Agent Basset.

D'ANGELO
Whitacre's not coming.

INTERIOR BRIAN SHEPARD'S HOUSE- MORNING

The phone rings-- Shepard answers.

SHEPARD
This morning?

WHITACRE (V.O.)
However, the bible makes it clear
that you sacrifice yourself...

156 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- A FEW MINUTES LATER 156

RUSTY the gardener shows up for work. He gets out of his Pick-Up and kicks a few leaves off the driveway, he adds some chemicals to the pool and then walks toward the garage-- as he's fishing some keys out of his pocket he notices the sound of a car engine.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
If it's the only way to save your
loved ones.

157 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION GARAGE- CONTINUOUS 157

The air is thick with smoke. Whitacre is motionless sprawled in the backseat-- drenched in sweat clutching the PICTURE OF HIS FAMILY.

RUSTY
Jesus, no. Somebody help.

Rusty throws the car in reverse and pulls out.

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

He opens an eye, but as Rusty looks down at him again he closes it-- plays dead.

The car is outside now. Rusty turns off the engine. Whitacre sighs heavily.

WHITACRE

Bud, pull the car back into the garage. Pull back in before somebody sees me.

Rusty pulls the car back in and turns it off. The smoke is still clearing.

RUSTY

Jesus, Mark, what are you doing?

Whitacre still stretched out in the backseat stares up at the ceiling-- explodes.

WHITACRE

You...You fucking God. You owe me.
You fucking God. After everything
I did.

Rusty is shocked by the outburst-- this is not the guy he knows at all. He backs away from the car and picks up the garage phone.

RUSTY

Ginger, can you come to the garage?

GINGER (O.S.)

Why? Rusty, what's wrong?

RUSTY

I just need to talk to you.

GINGER

I'm not coming down there unless
you tell me what's wrong.

RUSTY

Mark just tried to kill himself
and....

Ginger's piercing scream comes down the phone line. Whitacre is fetal in the backseat-- moaning.

Ginger and HER MOTHER come flying out of the house screaming. They pull Mark out of the car toward the open air as he stumbles, coughing, the family picture clatters across the garage floor. Whitacre jumps on it like a grenade.

Whitacre's kids come out of the house and stand clustered at a distance confused and terrified. Helpless in the face of a fallen parent.

ALEXANDER

Dad?

Ginger turns to her MOTHER.

GINGER

That Goddam Dwayne Andreas did this to him, Mom. He ought to be killed.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

(pre-lap)

Sometimes I'd leave the country with a big suitcase full of cash. Walk right through customs...

158 INTERIOR PSYCHIATRISTS OFFICE, CHICAGO- THE NEXT DAY 158

Whitacre lies on the couch talking to DOCTOR MILLER, 60's, genial, soft-spoken. This is not internal, it's therapy.

WHITACRE

...Walk back in with a bag full of jewelry.

MILLER

You never thought you'd get caught?

WHITACRE

That never occurred to me. I mean, I look respectable. Why would they search me? And now they're saying I stole 5 Million dollars. That's what I've been accused of.

MILLER

Did you?

WHITACRE

Yeah. They were paying me 500 grand, but it wasn't enough, I was spending more like eight. So, I took kickbacks. Like I said, it's just what you did if you wanted to be part of the gang at ADM.

MILLER

Is that how it was when you were a kid; you wanted to be part of the gang?

Whitacre nods.

WHITACRE

One time I got a brand new, top of the line bicycle. And I bragged to everyone about it. I told everybody how much it cost.

A beat. Then proudly.

WHITACRE

It cost ninety dollars.

MILLER

How did you come to work for the FBI?

WHITACRE

They approached me.

This doesn't make much sense to Miller.

MILLER

How is it that they came to you? Did they know about the price fixing?

WHITACRE

This agent, Brian Shepard came to a number of junior executives at ADM...That's why they approached me. The price fixing hadn't even started yet...

Miller is confused by this.

MILLER

But, uh, if no crime was, then...Mark, I'd like to have you checked into the hospital.

Whitacre looks over at a file cabinet.

WHITACRE

Is that where you keep your files? Is that safe? I'm the main witness against these people. You don't know who you're dealing with-- they'll do anything to win.

Whitacre-- in his hospital gown-- vanishes slowly, head first into the MRI tube.

GINGER (V.O.)
Over the last few years he's really
changed.

MILLER (V.O.)
How's that?

160 INTERIOR HOSPITAL CAFETERIA- DAY

160

Ginger and Miller have a cup of coffee.

GINGER
He just kept buying things. We
have eight cars-- three of them we
never even use.

MILLER
Anything else?

GINGER
I was always the one with the
temper and Corky was the happy one--
but that's changed too. Since he
said he'd cooperate with the FBI--
he's become so intolerant of
everyone...

MILLER
Why do you call him Corky?

GINGER
He's had that name since high
school. He was like a champagne
cork always flying off somewhere.

161 INTERIOR DOCTOR MILLER'S OFFICE- ANOTHER DAY

161

Whitacre looks beaten. His voice is cracking-- he's
distracted. Not very "Corky" right now.

WHITACRE
There's one in Hong Kong. And then
there's the bank accounts in
Switzerland and Grand
Cayman...Other things...There's a
lawyer in New York who has a
million dollars of mine.

MILLER
And have you told your attorney the
truth about all of these accounts?

WHITACRE

No, but I don't need to. The other assets are legal-- definitely.

MILLER

You need to tell your attorney...

WHITACRE

I don't know if I can trust him.

MILLER

Mark, has anybody in your family ever been diagnosed as bipolar or manic-depressive?

Whitacre nods and leans in.

WHITACRE

I had an Aunt who they said that about, my real parents died when I was pretty young and I was adopted...

162

INTERIOR LAWYER'S OFFICE- DAY

162

A woman we've NEVER SEEN BEFORE is giving a deposition to a ROOM FULL OF LAWYERS.

LAWYER

Have you ever heard that Mark told people he was adopted?

NEVER SEEN BEFORE

It was in the paper that he was adopted.

LAWYER

Mark is your natural born son; isn't that correct?

MRS. EVELYN WHITACRE isn't dead after all-- she's being deposed.

WHITACRE'S MOM

Right.

LAWYER

According to the adoption story Mark told, his parents we're killed in a car accident. Is there any truth in that?

WHITACRE'S MOM

No. Mark knows he's not adopted. He grew up in our house.

LAWYER

Another aspect of the story is that his parents are wealthy. Do you consider yourself wealthy?

WHITACRE'S MOM

No.

LAWYER

And when did Mark first send you a check from the account in Switzerland?

163 INTERIOR CONFERENCE ROOM- EPSTEIN, ZAIDEMAN- CONTINUOUS 163

Whitacre appears again with Epstein before another herd of LAWYERS.

EPSTEIN

My client is here to cooperate fully, so Agent D'Angelo, if you have any questions.

AGENT TONY D'ANGELO, 35, relaxed-- more like Herndon than Shepard.

D'ANGELO

This is your chance to put everything on the table. This is the chance to redeem yourself, but if you're not going to be completely honest you should stop talking now.

WHITACRE

I understand that. And I want to tell you I feel bad. I'm so sorry, and I feel worst about letting down Brian Shepard and Bob Herndon. Last time we talked I was under a great deal of stress and I said some things that weren't true. I'd like to clear that up.

Whitacre is more earnest than ever before-- he begins.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

The first kickback was in 1992, Mick knew all about it, he told me there'd be plenty of opportunities to take kick backs on Asian and European contracts at ADM.

D'ANGELO

Was anyone else involved?

WHITACRE
Uh, Sid Hulse...

164 INTERIOR DOJ, WASHINGTON- CONFERENCE ROOM 164

SID HULSE testifies with his lawyer, SHELDON ZENNER and FBI AGENT GRANT and a bunch of DOJ lawyers.

ZENNER
Before Sid says anything, you know about these schemes with the Nigerian letters?

AGENT GRANT
The 419 Fraud? We see it every day.

ZENNER
You ever wonder who was dumb enough to fall for something like that?

Hulse is flushed.

HULSE
This is really embarrassing. But, that's how Mark and I first got involved financially...

165 INTERIOR EPSTEIN, ZAIDEMAN CONFERENCE ROOM- CONTINUOUS 165

WHITACRE
Then there was Rheinhard Richter who I worked with in Mexico. We had some deal that involved...

166 INTERIOR AMERICAN EMBASSY- MEXICO CITY- DAY 166

RICHTER, the guy from the Admiral's Club in Mexico City, is questioned by FBI AGENT BASSET. Richter's entire financial history is spread out on the table in front of them.

AGENT BASSET
So we have money leaving your account here and here and here and it's going to Whitacre's account...His wife Ginger's account. This one is going to Whitacre's parents account.

RICHTER
Like I said, those are loans.

Agent Basset isn't buying it.

AGENT BASSET
Look we know you're sticking up for
Mark here, but your story doesn't
seem true. Mark is cooperating
now.

Richter folds.

RICHTER
You're right. It's not true.
All the money went to Mark.

AGENT BASSET
When did it start?

RICHTER
Mark told me about this Nigerian
thing he got in the mail.

167 INTERIOR EPSTEIN, ZAIDEMAN CONFERENCE ROOM- CONTINUOUS 167

WHITACRE
And then there was Marty Allison.
Marty's a good friend.

168 INTERIOR US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CHICAGO- DAY 168

MARTY ALLISON, 40 and his lawyer, MICHAEL MONICO, appear
before a host of FBI AGENTS and LAWYERS.

MARTY ALLISON
Mark told you guys about Nigeria,
right?

Nobody says anything.

MARTY ALLISON
When I started at ADM, uh in 1990,
Mark got a letter from Nigeria.

169 FLASHBACK- ADM, 1990- DAY 169

The office as we've seen it-- bustling with business. Allison
walks down the hall and is stopped by Whitacre.

WHITACRE
Hey, Marty, got a minute.

He takes a seat across the desk from Whitacre. Whitacre
shows him THE NIGERIAN LETTER.

ALLISON (V.O.)

He told me he'd been in touch with certain parties in Nigeria. Businessmen who had overbilled the government there for millions-- but now needed bogus invoices from legitimate US business men to make it all look above board. You put in ten grand you get a hundred back.

WHITACRE

I know people who have made millions on this. My step-father cleaned up.

170 INTERIOR US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CHICAGO- CONTINUOUS

170

Basset and Allison.

AGENT BASSET

He'd never heard of the Nigerian scam?

MARTY ALLISON

Not until a couple years later when *sixty minutes* ran a piece on it showing how people had lost a fortune on the con.

AGENT BASSET

And the kickbacks?

MARTY ALLISON

He had me set up a company in Germany and send fake invoices. I'd get a check for like 200 grand and most of it would go back to Mark.

AGENT BASSET

You kept the rest.

MARTY ALLISON

He told me management knew about it. But, it seemed to me that he was doing the same thing to ADM, that the Nigerians had done to us.

171 INTERIOR EPSTEIN, ZAIDEMAN CONFERENCE ROOM- LATER

171

Whitacre has laid out an amazing litany of theft and deception.

D'ANGELO
How much money did you receive
through all your illegal
activities?

Whitacre takes a moment-- does the math in his head, mouthing
to himself the various sources of his massive fraud.

WHITACRE
Uh...7.7 Million dollars. But,
Mick knew. Like I said, he
endorsed these things.

D'ANGELO
He endorsed you stealing 7.7
Million dollars?

WHITACRE
He might have though that was a bit
much.

D'ANGELO
Is there anything else you want to
tell us?

WHITACRE
Well, I think you did a real good
job today-- I do know that ADM has
been stealing microbes from the
Japanese for years and that they
use prostitutes to get information
from the competition's facility in
Iowa. I know that Mick Andreas
uses cocaine and I have that on
tape-- and there are illegal
campaign contributions to both
American and foreign politicians...

And under...

172 EXTERIOR GRANT PARK, CHICAGO- DAY

172

An empty band shell by Lake Michigan. Whitacre sits by
himself wearing dark glasses holding an envelope. Waiting...

EPSTEIN (V.O.)
When agents go under cover for the
FBI, they get trained for the
stresses of living a secret life...

173 INTERIOR DOJ CHAMBERS- DAY

173

Epstein addresses the standard assortment of lawyers-- Mann,
Mutchnik, Spearing, Spratling, etc.

EPSTEIN

We hear this all the time from you guys, how easy it is for trained agents to crack. And here is Mark...A civilian with no training.

174 EXTERIOR GRANT PARK- CONTINUOUS

174

Whitacre gets up and walks toward a black sedan. He looks around, paranoid. He wouldn't make a good spy.

EPSTEIN (V.O.)

But, you guys shove him in there, you tell him 'go for it,' without anything to make sure he doesn't crack under pressure. You have to ask yourself, was the US government taken in by Mark Whitacre, or did it help create him?

Whitacre leans into the car and hands off the envelope. He speaks to some HOODLUM we can't see.

WHITACRE

Tomorrow, 3 O'clock...where we talked about.

175 INTERIOR DOJ CHAMBERS- CONTINUOUS

175

Epstein's plea is moving-- he's reaching these people.

EPSTEIN

Mark committed a crime. He stole ~~nine~~ million dollars. It's indefensible. But these guys from ADM stole ~~hundreds~~ of millions of dollars from innocent people all over the world. Mark showed you that four white guys in suits getting together in the middle of the day, isn't a business meeting. It's a crime scene. And not only did he tell you about it, he got you the evidence to prove it. Now, we're not looking for the moon and stars. We're looking for something in the area of three years...Or we can take it to trial. And in that trial I'll lay out everything Mark Whitacre did-- good and bad...

176 EXTERIOR SHOPPING MALL- DECATUR

176

Whitacre stands in the parking lot reading the paper on a cool autumn day. No black sedan. The big clock outside the bank in the mall says: 4:25. Whitacre walks over to a trash can and removes a BOTTLE OF MEDICATION from his pocket.

He empties it into the trash.

EPSTEIN (V.O.)

And somewhere a future whistle blower is going to pick up the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal and read what Mark's life has become because he decided to cooperate.

Whitacre gives up, gets in his car and drives away.

177 INTERIOR DOJ CHAMBERS- CONTINUOUS

177

He drives his point home. A brilliant performance.

EPSTEIN

Because he decided to take on a powerful company...And then, you'll never have one of these white collar guys pick up a phone and call you ever again.

178 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- A LITTLE LATER

178

Whitacre comes flying through the door-- his jacket is now ripped, his glasses are bent, he's holding his arm. He looks like he's been through hell...he's frantic.

WHITACRE

Baby...Ginger. They grabbed me. There were two of them.

Ginger rushes through the house to the aid of her husband.

GINGER

Oh my God...

WHITACRE

They wouldn't let me out of the car.

GINGER

Look at your shirt...what happened?

As she embraces him we are close on Whitacre...

179 INTERIOR WAND-TV STUDIOS, DECATUR- DAY

179

Whitacre and Ginger are interviewed by the LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR against the "WAND" backdrop. Whitacre is calm-- convincing.

WHITACRE

I was abducted. They took me for a twenty-minute joy ride and told me that I basically better forget everything that's not on tape.

LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR

Did the men identify themselves?

Whitacre smiles.

WHITACRE

I think we know who sent them.

GINGER

And they sawed the locks off the door like, like mafia thugs.

LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR

And where is the FBI in all this?

180 INTERIOR BLUE BIRD DINER- AFTERNOON

180

Shepard watches the interview on the TV in the corner in the crowded diner.

GINGER

(on tv)

What people have to realize is-- the FBI did the same thing. They locked my husband in an investigation and drove our family around for three years threatening him. You tell me, where are they now?

He is stung by her words.

WHITACRE

(on TV)

I had a lot of faith in the guys at the FBI-- they always said they'd take care of me.

Shepard throws some money down on the lunch counter and leaves.

181 INTERIOR LAW OFFICES EPSTEIN, ZAIDEMAN- EVENING

181

Epstein brings a deal to Mark and Ginger. He believes he has saved his client, but the Whitacre's feel differently.

WHITACRE

Three to five years? But, ADM's the bad guys.

EPSTEIN

You've got to focus here. You stole nine million dollars. And then you lied about it. Maybe in your head you're one of the good guys but to them your a guy who stole a lot of money and lied about it.

WHITACRE

Ginger and I have been talking and we'd like to file a law suit against Brian Shepard and the US government.

EPSTEIN

Jesus Christ, for what, Mark?

WHITACRE

He hit me with a brief case.

This is news to Ginger, but she believes it. Epstein doesn't.

EPSTEIN

Mark...Come on.

WHITACRE

And he told me to destroy certain tapes that didn't help the case.

Epstein throws up his hands.

EPSTEIN

Mark, I'm telling you-- take the plea.

Whitacre smiles and looks at Ginger.

WHITACRE

Thanks, Jim. But, we're going to go a different way.

182 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION--DAY

182

Mark sits in his office staring at a letter from Doctor Miller.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

I read this study in Time magazine when I was at Cornell-- which is an Ivy league school-- and there were a lot of people who never believed, including my mother, that I would make it to an Ivy league school maybe just Ginger who I met in Marching Band in the 8th grade...

ANGLE ON THE LETTER

Fragments of the contents "This is to inform you of your lithium levels"... "Exacerbated by stress"... "A strict drug regimen..."

WHITACRE (V.O.)

...and the study said that people had nice, sympathetic feelings about people who were adopted and treated them better. So I made up this adoption story-- and people did treat me better-- and when I got a job one of my professors told the people at Ralston Purina that I was this amazing guy that had accomplished all of this in spite of being adopted--

Whitacre takes out a pair of SCISSORS and goes to work on the letter.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

...and so it was really other people who spread the story not me-- although I admit it was wrong to start it and everything, it was other people who kept it going. Even the people at ADM. My new lawyer sees that.

183 INTERIOR CHAMBERS DOJ- DAY

183

BILL WALKER, 50, fat and ruled by fantasy is Whitacre's new lawyer. He sits in a golf shirt and tennis shoes facing a squad of amazed DOJ PROSECUTORS.

WALKER

This all goes back many years,
before most of us were born...
It's bigger than any of us, and
it's ongoing. I know you're
skeptical, but I've seen it. My
client Mark Whitacre has shown it
to me. Maybe I'm just a personal
injury lawyer from Taylorville-
nowhere-Illinois, but I tell you I
know the identity of the master
puppeteer.

The DOJ lawyers try not to laugh.

MARY SPEARING

The who?

WALKER

Master puppeteer, and it's not who
you're thinking.

184 INTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- EVENING

184

Mark sits splicing tapes of Brian Shepard from one tape
recorder to another-- trying to piece together an
incriminating tape to frame Shepard.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Grandiosity and embellishment--
what they call it when you
embellish things-- those are the
major symptoms of bipolar disorder.
And the other, the second major
symptom is poor judgement. And
that's something Brian Shepard
should have known. The bipolar
disorder is what made me believe
I'd be President when it was
over...Although there was a time
when Mick told me, on a trip to
Nebraska, that I could be headed
for the top.

WALKER (V.O.)

Mark has tapes-- tapes the
government doesn't want us to hear.

185 INTERIOR CHAMBERS DOJ- CONTINUOUS

185

Walker is in full rant. He holds a letter up for all to see.

WALKER

Tapes that outline the actions of Brian Shepard, who hit Mark Whitacre with a brief case when Mark was cooperating with the government. And he has a letter from his psychiatrist outlining and confirming the cruelty perpetrated on him by Agent Shepard. A letter from his psychiatrist, clearly exonerating him from all wrongdoing.

Walker hands the letter over to Spearing.

186

INTERIOR WHITACRE BARN- DUSK

186

Winter. Gray snow on fields of dirt and broken corn stalks. An empty swimming pool and a FOR SALE sign in the yard. Inside Shepard sits with Whitacre and Ginger. Shepard holds the letter

SHEPARD

I read the letter from Doctor Miller, Mark. It's not true.

WHITACRE

It's true. Definitely-- it's on his letterhead, he signed it...

SHEPARD

The area code...Mark...

He puts the letter in the middle of the table.

SHEPARD (CONT'D)

...Area code 847. It says the letter was written in November 1995-- that area code didn't exist then.

WHITACRE

Well, everybody knew the area code change was coming. Lot's of people ordered new stationery early.

SHEPARD

I thought about that. So I asked the phone company. This is the press release announcing the 847 area code...

He puts the release on the table.

SHEPARD

It's dated six days after your
letter was written-- Doctor Miller
couldn't have known about it.

Whitacre stares at it-- then looks up.

THE MACHINE IN HIS HEAD THAT RECONSTITUTES REALITY GRINDS AND
SEIZES. HE'S FINALLY TRAPPED. THE INTERIOR MONOLOGUE IS THE
SAME AS THE DIALOGUE IN THE SCENE-- BUT PRECEDES WHAT
WHITACRE IS SAYING OUT LOUD BY AN INSTANT. THERE IS AN ECHO
ONLY WHITACRE CAN HEAR.

WHITACRE

Ron Henkoff from Fortune
called Doctor Miller and
Miller confirmed the
letter...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Ron Henkoff from Fortune
called Doctor Miller and
Miller confirmed the
letter...

SHEPARD

I called Miller, Mark.

Ginger quietly starts to cry-- picks up the letter.

WHITACRE

He can't talk to you...That's
a violation of doctor patient
confidentiality...

WHITACRE (V.O.)

He can't talk to you...That's
a violation of doctor patient
confidentiality...

SHEPARD

Doctor patient confidentiality
doesn't apply to forgeries.

Ginger cries harder. Whitacre tries again.

WHITACRE (V.O.)

Then why did Fortune Magazine
run the story...

WHITACRE

Then why did Fortune Magazine
run the story...

Ginger has had it, she breaks down.

GINGER

Stop it...

WHITACRE

Call Henkoff...

SHEPARD

He never wrote the letter.

GINGER

Stop it, Mark. You have to stop
doing this to yourself, please
stop.

Whitacre is done.

WHITACRE

I think maybe I should go back to
the hospital.

187 INTERIOR FEDERAL COURT, URBANA ILLINOIS

187

Whitacre looks like shit. He sits with Walker in JUDGE
HAROLD BAKER'S courtroom.

SUPER: OCTOBER, 10TH, 1997

CLERK

Case 97-2001 United states of
America versus Mark Whitacre.

JUDGE BAKER

You have the right to make a
statement if you wish?

Whitacre nods and stands.

WHITACRE

I appreciate the opportunity to say
a few words, it's been a long five
years. I apologize to a lot of
people in this room...

ANGLE ON SHEPARD AND HERNDON

They sit together in the back row.

WHITACRE

And to a lot of them who are not in
this room for my actions. I
realize I hurt a lot of people and
I apologize greatly...I am here to
accept my punishment. That's all.

JUDGE BAKER

To observe that Mr. Whitacre is the
usual felon is a gross
understatement. He is well
educated, has a loving wife and
family, is respected in the
community. It is not inconceivable
that in due course he may have
become CEO of Archer Daniels
Midland...

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

He smiles. He knew he could be CEO someday...We hear
Whitacre in a calmer time.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
I like jail. I think it's been good
for me...

But, the judge isn't done with him.

JUDGE BAKER
However, the court can find no
clear connection between Mr.
Whitacre's bipolar disorder and the
45 counts of criminal misconduct he
has been charged with-- just garden
variety greed. It is very
difficult to tell when Mr. Whitacre
is telling the truth...

188 INTERIOR ANOTHER COURTROOM- DAY

188

A larger courtroom. Mick and Terry stand for sentencing,
surrounded by Aubrey Daniel and others.

WHITACRE (V.O.)
But, I don't think what happened is
fair when you look at what happened
to me compared to Mick and Terry. I
mean, if you go and hold up your
local grocery store you might get
five years...

SUPER: FIVE YEARS LATER

ANGLE ON WHITACRE

FULL SCREEN VIDEO

WHITACRE
Mick and Terry held up every
grocery store in the world and they
only got three...So you tell me how
it makes sense that I get nine. I
think that's something you should
consider, Mr. President, when
reviewing my request for pardon.

189 INTERIOR FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, SC- DAY

189

Whitacre is in his green prison jumpsuit-- BALD-- his toupee,
another deception, also gone. He sits in front of a video
camera in the beam of ONE LIGHT. A CAMERAMAN records his
PARDON APPEAL.

WHITACRE (CONT'D)

I'd also like to take this opportunity to apologize to Special Agent Brian Shepard on behalf of myself and my wife Ginger, he never hit me with a brief case or told me to destroy tapes. The idea to sue him wasn't mine-- it came from someone at ADM and I shouldn't have listened. I can't remember who. When I was at ADM, I lived so many lives, I wasn't sure who I was. Today, I know more who I am and what I really want out of life. I've completed three post-graduate degrees while in detention. A J.D. which is, of course, a law degree and another advanced degree in the psychology of jury selection. I sleep better in prison than I have in years. My wife has forgiven me and believes that the ordeal with ADM has brought us closer together in a marriage of over 20 years. I hope you will allow me to leave here, so that I can re-join my life with my family and three kids...Two of whom are adopted...Especially when you consider that thanks in large part to my testimony the US government has been able to collect over a billion dollars in price-fixing fines from big business. That's it. Thanks.

He smiles. The light goes out. The Cameraman starts packing up the equipment. Out of the shadows steps Bob Herndon.

HERNDON

Good luck with the appeal, Mark.

WHITACRE

Thanks for helping me remember everything Bob. I sure appreciate it. I wish Brian could've come.

HERNDON

He still pretty angry.

WHITACRE

You tell him, I'm real sorry. Can you do that for me? The funny part is if I'd never gone undercover I would have never stolen 11 million. It was my way out. My severance. What else could I do-- I wrote my own severance.

Before Herndon can respond a CORRECTIONAL OFFICER approaches.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER
Work detail.

WHITACRE
I gotta go, Bob.

Herndon does some math.

HERNDON
11 million? I thought it came out
to nine.

WHITACRE
Did I say eleven? Boy, it was only
nine. Definitely. The eleven is
with interest.

HERNDON
Mark, are you still taking your
medication?

WHITACRE
The doctor here says I don't need
it anymore. I can manage without
it now that there's less stress. It
was just the stress of the FBI.

Herndon turns to leave-- and then he pauses.

HERNDON
Mark, was it eleven? I mean there
isn't something else we need to...

WHITACRE
I don't know Bob, you tell me.

He smiles and turns his back on the agent and walks down the
hall toward work detail.

SFX: A drum roll explodes into the roar of the CLASH'S cover
of "I FOUGHT THE LAW (AND THE LAW WON)." As Joe Strummer
sings "Breaking rocks in the hot sun..."

190 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- DAY

190

Parked in the driveway is a truck with an ADM logo on it--
TWO ADM WORKERS have set up some SEISMIC EQUIPMENT on the
lawn. One works the gear, the other talks to the NEW OWNER.

NEW OWNER

Mrs. Whitacre never told me anything about any hidden rooms and tunnels and neither did the realtor.

191 INTERIOR SUPERMARKET- DAY

191

Ginger Whitacre checks out of the grocery store. As each item is scanned by the cashier we FREEZE on the side of the package...Instead of the INGREDIENTS panel of the package we see:

SUPER: MICK ANDREAS AND TERRY WILSON WERE SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS AT THE FEDERAL PRISON CAMP IN DULUTH, MINNESOTA FOR PRICE FIXING. THEY WERE RELEASED IN 1999. NEITHER RETURNED TO ADM.

Another item...

SUPER: DWAYNE ANDREAS WAS NEVER INDICTED. HE RETIRED FROM ADM AND REMAINS POLITICALLY ACTIVE. HIS NEPHEW ALLAN ANDREAS IS NOW CEO OF ADM.

Another item...

SUPER: AJINOMOTO CORPORATION PLEAD GUILTY AND PAID \$10 MILLION IN FINES. MR. YAMADA REMAINS UNDER INDICTMENT AND WILL BE ARRESTED IF HE ATTEMPTS TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES.

Another item...

SUPER: BOB HERNDON IS AN FBI AGENT IN KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI. HE WAS AWARDED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MEDAL BY JANET RENO FOR HIS WORK IN THE ADM CASE.

Another item...

SUPER: BRIAN SHEPARD WAS CLEARED OF ANY WRONGDOING AND WAS ALSO AWARDED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MEDAL IN 1999. HE IS STILL THE RESIDENT FBI AGENT IN DECATUR, ILLINOIS.

GROCERY CASHIER

How would you like to pay for this?

Ginger opens her checkbook.

SUPER: GINGER WHITACRE MOVED HER CHILDREN TO AKIN, SOUTH CAROLINA TO BE NEAR HER HUSBAND. SHE IS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER.

192 EXTERIOR WHITACRE MANSION- A LITTLE LATER 192

The ADM workers have dug a hole in the yard. The NEW OWNER looks on shaking her head.

SUPER: NO HIDDEN ROOM WAS EVER FOUND AT THE WHITACRE RESIDENCE. ADM REFUSES TO DISCLOSE IF ALL OF THE MONEY MARK WHITACRE STOLE HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.

193 EXTERIOR CORRECTIONAL FACILITY- EVENING 193

Whitacre drives a COMBINE in a corn field behind a barbed wire fence-- he wears an orange jumpsuit and a white hat. GREEN/GOLD stalks of corn flash by...

HOLD ON ONE HUSK OF CORN AS THE SUPER CRAWLS...

SUPER: MARK WHITACRE IS SERVING NINE YEARS FOR FRAUD AND PRICE FIXING IN EDGEFIELD FEDERAL PRISON. HE HAS SOUGHT PARDONS FROM BILL CLINTON AND GEORGE W. BUSH. BUT, HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED. OVER 30 GRAND JURIES HAVE INVESTIGATED PRICE FIXING IN THE FOOD AND VITAMIN INDUSTRIES SINCE MARK WHITACRE STEPPED FORWARD. AS A RESULT, BY 1999, THE US GOVERNMENT HAD COLLECTED OVER \$1 BILLION IN FINES.

The combine harvests the husk we have been holding on-- clearing the frame. Leaving only BLUE SKIES.

THE END